

ACTION NEA-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	
	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOFE-00	DS-00	DHSE-00	AVC-00	EUR-00	
	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	
	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	M-00	NSAE-00	
	ISN-00	NSCE-00	OIC-00	NIMA-00	PA-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	
	PRS-00	P-00	SCT-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	SP-00	SSO-00	
	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	FMP-00	SCRS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	
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SENSITIVE

E.O. 13526: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, MOPS, TU, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PUBLIC COMMISSION ON MAVI MARMARA: POSITIVE FOR  
 ISRAEL, BUT TURKEY CONDEMNS

1. (SBU) Summary: On January 23, the Turkel Commission, a public commission examining the Gaza flotilla interdiction on May 31, 2010, submitted the first part of its findings to PM Netanyahu. Committee Chairman and former High Court Justice Jacob Turkel announced the results during a public session also on January 23. According to the report, the Commission found the GOI's naval blockade and the Israel Defense Force's use of force during the May 31 Gaza flotilla interdiction as legal pursuant to the rules of international law. However, the Commission criticized the planning process for failing to anticipate a "worst case scenario" in which armed activists confronted boarding IDF soldiers. The Commission's findings were well-received in Israel, and presented as justification for the May 31st intervention. The Israeli pressed covered extensively Turkish criticism of the report. The Turkish Embassy in Tel Aviv issued a press statement to the international community contesting the Turkey Commission's findings, and lambasting the public release of the Commission's conclusions. MFA interlocutors acknowledged several flotilla efforts on the immediate horizon that bear monitoring. End summary.  
 Commission Conclusions

2. (SBU) The first part of the Commission's report examined the legality of the naval blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip, and

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the legality of the actions carried out by the IDF in order to enforce the naval blockade under international law. The main findings of the first part of the Commission's report are:

-- The naval blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip - in view of the security circumstances and Israel's efforts to comply with its humanitarian obligations - was legal pursuant to the rules of international law.

-- The actions carried out by Israel on May 31, 2010, to enforce the naval blockade had the regrettable consequences of the loss of human life and physical injuries. Nonetheless, and despite the limited number of uses of force for which we could not reach a conclusion, the actions taken were found to be legal pursuant to the rules of international law.

3. (SBU) The Commission detailed efforts to hear both sides of the incident. According to the report, invitations were sent through the Turkish Embassy in Israel to the captain of the Mavi Marmara and leader of the Turkish sponsoring NGO IHH, Bulent Yildirim, as well as a request for other eyewitnesses to the incident. According to the Commission, these requests went unanswered.

4. (SBU) In order to assess the legitimacy and proportionality of the IDF's use of force during the May 31st incident, the Commission examined approximately 130 incidents in which force was used - including the use of force by IDF soldiers and commanders. In total, the Commission examined the actions of more than 40 soldiers and commanders, the testimonies of the commanders in charge of taking over other vessels participating in the flotilla, as well as incidents captured on magnetic media handed over to the Commission. The Commission noted difficulties re-constructing a complete and precise picture of the sequence of events, given the lack of testimonies from flotilla participants and the fact that the "scene of the events, i.e., the vessels themselves, were not kept in sterile conditions.

5. (SBU) The Commission determined that the IDF soldiers acted professionally and in a measured manner "in the face of extensive and unanticipated violence." This professionalism was evident in their "continuing to switch back and forth" between less-lethal and lethal weapons in order to address the "nature of the violence directed against them." The Commission found that 127 uses of force investigated appeared to be in conformity with international law. In five of the 127 cases, force appeared to be used against persons taking a direct part in hostilities; however, there was insufficient evidence to conclude that the force used was in accordance with law enforcement norms. In six cases the Commission concluded that it did not have sufficient information to be able to make a determination regarding the legality of the use of force.

6. (SBU) The Commission also noted that Israeli authorities did not have a forewarning of the violent reception planned by IHH activists. The inability to identify IHH intentions had a direct

impact on operational tactics, rules of engagement and training prior to the operation. As such, the Commission noted that the lack of appreciation of the threat was not exclusively the result of incomplete intelligence gathering, but also throughout the planning process. The scenario of an organized force armed with lethal weapon actively resisting boarding attempts appears not to have been considered. Planning in advance for the "worst case scenario" would have better prepared the soldiers.

7. (SBU) A forthcoming second part of the Commission's report - expected to be released in coming months - will address the question of whether the investigation and inquiry mechanism practiced in Israel and as applied to the Mavi Marmara incident is consistent with the duties of the State of Israel. This second part will also include questions that have importance from a domestic Israeli perspective.

#### International Observers

8. (SBU) The international observers of the Commission - former Nobel Peace Laureate (William) David Trimble from Northern Ireland and Brigadier-General (Ret.) Kenneth Watkin from Canada - issued a letter which accompanied the Commission's report. In the letter, the observers noted that they had "no doubt" that the Commission was independent, and expressed satisfaction that they had all access to the material before the Commission and were fully involved in all the Commission's work. They also expressed appreciation that the Commission made repeated efforts to hear both sides, extending to make arrangement for evidence to be given by video conference and taking evidence at a neutral location - although these offers were not taken up. The international observers expressed appreciation for Israeli Arabs who were on board the Mavi Marmara, as well as representatives of the Israeli Human Rights Non-Governmental Organization who testified before the Commission.

#### Turkish Reaction

9. (SBU) Israeli press outlets covered Turkish PM Erdogan's scathing critic of the Commission's report. In addition, the Turkish Embassy in Tel Aviv disseminated on January 24 a press statement to the international community in response to the Commission's findings. According to the statement, the Government of Turkey had submitted an interim report to the UN Panel of Inquiry on September 1 and kept its report confidential, while the Israeli response had been delayed several times and subsequently released to the public. The statement noted that:

- Israel's "so-called maritime blockade" against the Gaza Strip is devoid of legal basis and legitimacy. Israel's attack - an extension of this unlawful practice - is therefore equally illegal.
- Even if Israel's alleged blockade had not been lacking a legal basis, it would still have been unlawful because Israel has not met various requirements for a naval blockade to be accepted as lawful.

Israel's so-called blockade does not fulfill the requirements of "proportionality," "necessity," and "reasonableness" under international law.

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-- The Human Rights Council Fact-Finding Mission determined the Israeli blockade to be illegal and inferred therefore that the interception of the Mavi Marmara and the subsequent detention of passengers and crew was unlawful.

-- Israel's attack against the Gaza flotilla violated both wartime and peacetime international law, and "trampled" all international principles, rules and norms with respect to the manner the intervention was conducted.

-- The Turkish Commission is "surprised, appalled and dismayed" that the Israeli national inquiry process resulted in the exoneration of the Israeli armed forces despite all the facts confirmed by the Human Rights Council Fact-Finding Mission.

#### Israeli Reaction

10. (SBU) On January 23, PM Netanyahu praised the findings of the Commission. "The truth is simple - the IDF soldiers protected themselves and the State," Netanyahu said. "It is not only their right but also their duty to do so, and the State of Israel supports them." He called the report "independent and unbiased," and noted that the entire world had seen Israeli soldiers attacked on board the Mavi Marmara. "Every time Israel must defend itself, it is accused of committing war crimes... IDF soldiers boarded the Marmara with bravery and restraint. The aim was to enforce the naval blockade on Gaza, he added.

11. (SBU) MFA International Law Counselor Arthur Lenk said on January 23 that he will present the Turkey Commission's report to the UN Palmer Panel. Lenk noted that the Turkish report has yet to be finalized and will not be made public. According to Lenk, the only similarities between the Israeli and Turkish reports are that both are "dealing with an incident that happened on the Mavi Marmara on May 31st, and both of them mention there were nine fatalities." Lenk also addressed the credibility of the Turkel Commission, noting that the report had been critical of the GOI's policy planning process. He questioned why a report critical of Israel is often widely approved, while a report finding that Israel had acted in accordance with international humanitarian law is hastily second-guessed.

12. (SBU) On January 23, MFA Acting Director General Rafael Barak noted that the Commission report affirmed the behavior of the IDF. It was important that the two foreign representatives endorsed the report's findings. The report was also important for the army and the military units involved. The report also has been sent to Geoffrey Palmer, head of the UNSYG fact-finding panel, with plans for the Turkel Commission to meet with the panel in late February. Barak said that they were waiting for the reaction of the Turks, with the hope they would take the findings into consideration.

13. (SBU) MFA's Barak also said that the GOI was closely monitoring any new flotilla efforts designed to break the naval

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blockade. Israeli newspaper Haaretz included an article detailing several efforts, including by the Free Gaza movement and IHH. According to the article, these groups are planning to sail in the spring, potentially to coincide with the May 31st anniversary of

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the Mavi Marmara incident. These groups hope to include a greater number of ships and activists on-board, to include politicians, well-known athletes and artists.

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	MCC-00	PER-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	DOHS-00	IRM-00	CRYE-00
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER  
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DA WASHDC FOR SASA  
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LONDON ALSO FOR HKANONA AND POL  
PARIS ALSO FOR POL  
ROME FOR MFO

E.O. 13526: N/A  
TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, IS  
SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE TEL AVIV

MEDIA REACTION REPORT

Tuesday, June 28, 2011

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SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:  
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Mideast  
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Key stories in the media:  
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All media reported that on Monday, hundreds of right-wing activists attempted to storm the Supreme Court to protest the detention of Kiryat Arba Chief Rabbi Dov Lior earlier in the day. (Ha'aretz says that this protest was organized by the Yesha Council of Jewish Settlements in the Territories and other groups that "usually are not on good terms with each other.") Protesters also blocked the entrance to Jerusalem and other streets in the capital. Maj. Gen. Yoav Segalovitch, the head of the police's Investigations division, ordered Lior detained after the rabbi refused previous summons for questioning. Lior was wanted for questioning after he endorsed the controversial book "Torat Hamelech" (The King's Law), which

justifies the killing of non-Jews. Media quoted Lior as saying

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that the Torah does not need approval; by "commissars." Ha'aretz reported that on Monday, in an unusual step, Israel's two Chief Rabbis, Yona Metzger and Shlomo Amar, released a joint statement decrying the "severe damage to the dignity of an important rabbi and rabbinic judge, one of Israel's greatest rabbis." However, they also called on people not to protest the police's questioning of Lior. Seventeen protesters were arrested in Jerusalem, two of whom were attempting to break into the home of deputy state prosecutor Shai Nitzan. Nitzan, who is currently abroad, has been given special police protection after he was threatened by right-wing extremists. According to a report on Channel 2-TV on Monday, the police are inclined to recommend indicting the rabbis and the book's author for incitement to racism or violence. The pro-settler daily Makor Rishon-Hatzofe identifies with Lior. Ex-Justice Jacob Turkel, who headed the Israeli commission of investigation on events related to last year's flotilla, told Israel Radio this morning that Rabbi Lior's arrest was not a clever act.

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All media quoted senior Israeli officials as saying at a press briefing on Monday that even though the Turkish organization IHH has withdrawn from the upcoming flotilla to Gaza, information recently obtained by Israel indicates that some passengers are planning on carrying out violent acts. Since IHH was chiefly responsible for the violence aboard last year's flotilla, its withdrawal had initially seemed to obviate that threat. But the officials said that it now seems that members of the group will be sailing on some of the ships, along with other Arab and Muslim activists. Two of these activists, they said, have known ties with Hamas: Amin Abu Rashad, who formerly headed a Hamas-linked charity in the Netherlands that was shut down by the Dutch government for financing terror, and Mohammad Hannoun of the Italian ABSPP foundation, which Israel claims is also involved in financing terror. The information also indicates that flotilla organizers may be stowing chemicals aboard for use against soldiers who board the ships, the officials said, adding that a few extremists among the organizers had been heard threatening in recent days "to spill the blood" of IDF soldiers. Senior defense officials told Ha'aretz that the chemicals, including sulfur, are aboard ships carrying French and American passengers, among others. "This is a dramatic development," one defense source said. "The picture emerging here is that some of the flotilla participants clearly intend a violent

clash." Israel Radio cited flotilla organizers' utter denial of the report. On Monday, the diplomatic-security cabinet ordered the IDF to "act resolutely" to enforce the naval blockade of Gaza by stopping the flotilla, which is due to sail from Greece in the coming days. But it said the army should "avoid friction" with the passengers "as far as is possible." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also decided that Israeli and foreign journalists should

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be embedded on navy ships involved in stopping the flotilla.

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On Monday, flotilla activists charged that one of their ships was deliberately tampered with while it was docked in Greece's Piraeus port.

Ha'aretz reported that the Defense Ministry has proposed setting up a special naval court that could confiscate blockade-running ships. The proposal, drafted by ministry legal advisor Ahaz Benari, was made in a letter sent by DM Ehud Barak to Justice Minister Yaakov Ne'eman at the beginning of the month. Ha'aretz quoted defense sources as saying that ship seizures would make it harder for pro-Palestinian activists to rent ships for future flotillas. They also said a prize court could be established very quickly, enabling even ships in the current flotilla to be impounded. "There's no doubt that impounding vessels is a deterrent measure that could prevent the need to use force against future violations [of the blockade]," Barak wrote. At a meeting of his Atzmaut faction yesterday, Barak termed the flotilla an "unnecessary provocation." "There is no humanitarian crisis in Gaza," he said. "The real problem is the captivity of [soldier] Gilad Shalit and the fact that more rockets threatening southern Israel are continually being amassed there."

The media also reported that on Monday, "after a day in which every single news media outlet in the world seemed to weigh in" (in Ha'aretz's words), PM Benjamin Netanyahu rescinded a Government Press Office decision to sanction any foreign journalist who participates in the Gaza Strip flotilla. Yediot mentions a fabricated video that circulated on the Internet and that cited a homosexual man's contention that he had been rejected from the flotilla. His alleged remarks on Hamas' intolerance were used by

the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem and the video was eventually removed.

Ha'aretz and Yediot quoted Israeli officials as saying that as saying on Monday that Israel is furious with Jordan for initiating a UNESCO vote condemning Israel for its planned renovations at the Mughrabi Gate Bridge. Ha'aretz quoted Nimrod Barkan, Israel's Ambassador to UNESCO, as saying on Monday that Israel is shocked that Amman had led a successful effort within the international body to condemn Israel over the renovations -- after signing an agreement with Israel to allow the work to go ahead. "The Jordanians lied in a way that cannot be believed, both to us and to the Americans," Barkan was quoted as saying in a phone call from Paris. "They lied all along the way. They wanted to get it both ways." Barkan said that the plans for razing and rebuilding the old Mughrabi Gate Bridge, which leads from the Western Wall plaza in Jerusalem to the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Temple Mount, have

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been public for a while and are intended to begin next week -- and Israel and Jordan had reached a clear agreement about the work. But despite the understanding, Israel -- and the U.S. -- were stunned last week to learn that Jordan, along with Egypt, Iraq, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Cambodia, and Mali had filed a complaint against Israel in UNESCO's World Heritage Committee over the planned renovations. "The most astonishing thing is they don't even mention the agreement between Israel and Jordan!" said Barkan, who added that Jordanian and Palestinian representatives also handed out pamphlets to members of the committee saying that Israel was also planning to carry out work at the Damascus Gate. Israel delayed the Jordan-led petition last Wednesday with the support of 11 committee members, but it was adopted without a vote by the 21-member body on Monday. In a related story, Ha'aretz reported that Israeli police officials are recommending that a permanent bridge to the Mughrabi Gate be built in September, while the world's attention is focused on the Palestinians' statehood bid at the U.N. General Assembly.

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Yediot and other media reported that veteran Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) activist Leila Khaled, 67, who is well known for her successful and failed hijackings of American and Israeli planes in 1969 and 1970, is one of the organizers of a PFLP attack on the Etz Hazayit (Olive Tree) Hotel in Jerusalem and the

abduction of an IDF soldier, which were thwarted by the police and Shin Bet.

Leading media quoted the German government as saying on Monday that it was Hamas that rejected a budding agreement with Israel over a Shalit deal. The media say that the statement concurs with Netanyahu's view. The media quoted Musa Abu Marzouk, the deputy head of Hamas' political bureau, as saying in an interview with Al-Hayat that the German mediator involved in the negotiations had "endorsed the unfair and unjust positions of the Zionist government."

A feature story in Yediot depicts a thriving Gaza.

Yediot quoted senior U.S. administration sources as saying that U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Admiral Mike Mullen, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, are among those demanding that the Egyptian leadership immediately release alleged Israeli spy Ilan Grapel, who is also an American citizen.

The Jerusalem Post's web site reported that Israel has been designated a 'Tier 2' country in the U.S. Department of State's annual Trafficking in Persons Report. This ranking is reserved for countries that do not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but are making significant efforts

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to do so.

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Ha'aretz reviews a new book by Jeremy Ben-Ami, the founder of J. Street -- "A New Voice for Israel." The newspaper says that the book will be sure to find critics who disagree with the contention that the conversation on Israel must be changed.

Yediot reported that the Knesset's Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee adopted the Justice Minister's degree, based on the Money Laundering Law, that profits made from trading with Iran constitute a criminal offense. Major media reported that on Monday, Iran revealed underground ballistic missile ships. The Jerusalem Post cited Iranian State TV as saying that the Shahab 3 missile has a 2,000 km. range.

The Jerusalem Post reported that on Monday, the Knesset's Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee approved a bill outlawing boycotts on Israel.

The Jerusalem Post and Israel Hayom reported that conservative American pundit Glenn Beck will advise Knesset members on fighting the delegitimization of Israel abroad during a trip to Israel in July.

Yediot quoted Republican presidential candidate Michele Bachmann as saying in an interview with The Weekly Standard that she volunteered in a kibbutz after high school.

Yediot reported that Likud Knesset Member Miri Regev has introduced a bill tripling combat soldiers' salaries. The Treasury is opposed to the raise, which it deems too expensive.

Ha'aretz reported on an air security spat with Denmark, which could spread to the entire European continent.

Leading media reported that Motti Posloszny, a deputy city manager for Herzliya, is the Israeli who was convicted, together with his wife, of stealing historic artifacts from the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in Poland. He and his wife were fined and

given a two-year suspended sentence; the Polish prosecutor said the fine would be used to help preserve exhibits at the camp, which now serves as a museum. Posloszny submitted his resignation to Herzliya Mayor Yael German.

Leading media cited PM Netanyahu's decision to make the Dead Sea Works fund the rescue of the Dead Sea hotels, which are threatened by natural erosion.

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The Jerusalem Post quoted Rev. Malcolm Hedding, the outgoing executive director of the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem (ICEJ), as saying that the Interior Ministry has started revoking visas to employees of local Evangelical organizations.

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In what it says is a test for Israel's Law of Return, Ha'aretz reported that the Interior Ministry is refusing citizenship and new immigrant status to a homosexual married to a Jewish new immigrant, despite the law's stipulation that the child, grandchild and partner of a Jew are entitled to Jewish immigrant rights. Joshua Goldberg and Bayardo Alvarez, both American citizens, immigrated to Israel two weeks ago. Goldberg, who is Jewish, received an Israeli identity card and immigrant certificate on arrival, under the Law of Return. Alvarez, despite exerting much pressure on the ministry, was granted only temporary residence. Ha'aretz quoted Attorney Nicky Maor, director of the Legal Aid Center for Olim (new immigrants), as saying that if the couple were a man and woman, there is no doubt they would both have received Israeli citizenship.

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Mideast:

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Block Quotes:

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I. "Who's the Boss?"

Liberal columnist and television anchor Ofer Shelach wrote on page one of the popular, pluralist Maariv (6/28): "The overwhelming majority of the residents of Judea and Samaria [i.e. the West Bank], as they rightfully claim, are good and law-abiding citizens. But they live in a place where the law is subordinate to the rabbi, forsaken by a groveling and powerless government, ridiculed by the price tag thugs, about which law-abiding citizens say they do not support but whom they also do not vomit forth from their midst. They live in a place that has become so accustomed to the double game, that it no longer knows any other law. Rabbi Dov Lior is not to blame. This is how he lives, in no man's land. For so many years, no one has demanded accountability of him. So many governments have capitulated to him, have let him and his ilk spit at the army and the police and said 'look, it's raining.' So many people think, like him and like [far-Right] Knesset Member Michael Ben-Ari, that the 'left wingers are the Supreme Court.' The only ones to blame are those who pretend that all this comes together to a state in which there is law and order and justice for all."

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### II. "You've Trampled Us Underfoot"

Religious Zionist Rabbi Haim Druckman, a former National-Religious Party Knesset Member, wrote in the popular, pluralist Maariv (6/28): "The arrest of Rabbi Dov Lior is a scandal that is second to none. My intention is both to the very fact of his arrest and the manner in which it was done. In practice, this was a kidnapping. Someone saw it fit to kidnap a rabbi in Israel in broad daylight. Those resourceful people managed to discover the criminal's location and they nabbed him. I lack the words to describe the magnitude of my shock... On this day, after the deplorable act that was done to Rabbi Lior, there is a very large

sector in Israel that feels that it has been offended, that it has been trampled underfoot. This sector is completely loyal to the State of Israel and the army, and its worldview is stately in nature. This sector literally sacrifices itself for the sake of the state. This kidnapping is an insult to those ideological youths, who only wish to contribute all the time in any way possible... The despicable kidnapping of Rabbi Lior is an act of national irresponsibility that is second to none. It is, essentially, a self-inflicted injury. In general, there has been clear discrimination against the religious-Zionist sector of late. I do not want to get into issues of left and right, but there are people who incite against the State of Israel. As a result of their incitement, IDF commanders cannot travel to all sorts of places in the world-but they are not interrogated. They are not arrested.

They have no problem. Whom do they kidnap here in broad daylight? A great rabbi in Israel. This was a terribly severe course of action. It was enormously damaging to us in national, stately and ethical terms, and that is irrespective of the book in question and the preface that Rabbi Dov Lior wrote for it. The people who chose to take the course of action acted without any consideration for its national ramifications. They might have wanted to show off the power that they wield and to show that they are capable of arresting a great rabbi, but that was hardly a wise action. Did that course of action produce greater identification with the state? If that is what they thought that they were doing, they achieved the opposite result, and that is something that pains my heart."

### III. "Ships of Fools"

The conservative, independent Jerusalem Post editorialized (6/28): "What is the real motivation of those 'activists' intent on challenging Israel's blockade, these activists targeting an Israel that seeks to protect its civilians from terrorist attacks, these

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activists choosing to pour their passion into this cause while ignoring genuine humanitarian disasters and outrages elsewhere in this same region, notably including Bashar Assad's brutal repression of his own Syrian people? Could it be their stubborn preoccupation with Israel's purported abuses and 'collective

punishment' of Gazans, while conveniently ignoring the injustices of an increasingly unpopular Hamas regime, are the result of a certain ingrown prejudice against the Jewish state? Hopefully, reason and international pressure will win out, and the Gaza flotilla will not sail insistently into confrontation. Preventing a repeat of the Mavi Marmara debacle, by pulling back from a misguidedly motivated and thoroughly unnecessary confrontation with Israeli forces, would be the most fitting way for the flotilla activists to commemorate that recent one-year anniversary."

#### IV. "An Opening to an Agreement"

The independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz editorialized (6/28): "Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas recently made it clear that if the Israeli government followed the Palestinians into resuming negotiations based on the Obama formula, this could lead to the suspension of the pursuit of Palestinian statehood through the United Nations. Despite the fact that every week more states are joining the long list of those that have announced their recognition of a Palestinian state, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu continues to waver. He refuses to resume the negotiations on the basis of the internationally accepted principle that the talks must start with the Green Line, and is gambling on a U.S. veto in the U.N.... Instead of readying the Israel Defense Forces for possible civil disobedience and violent clashes in the territories, combined with Israel's international isolation -- what he terms a 'tsunami' of events -- Defense Minister Ehud Barak should trade in his amateur commentator's suit for that of a level-headed statesman. As the leader of a party seen as holding the balance of power in the coalition's fulcrum it is his duty to assume the role of the responsible adult. The mantra 'there is no partner,' which he coined 11 years ago, after the failed Camp David summit, was a contributing factor in the second Intifada. If the government maintains its intransigence, the third Intifada will be named for the Defense Minister."

#### V. "Meantime, in Washington"

Defense commentator Amir Oren wrote in Ha'aretz (6/28): "Netanyahu's two wishes are to bomb Iran, and to be dragged toward an agreement with the Palestinians. To fulfill both wishes, he needs broad consent from the U.S. government.... According to Israel's logic, the acceleration in the American pullout from Iraq and Afghanistan leaves money, willingness, and inclination in favor

of an operation against Iran's nuclear program, and also in favor of disbursements to Israel. The Americans' logic, however, is the exact opposite: you don't divorce yourself from two bottomless pits in order to jump into a third one (or a fourth one, counting Libya, a barrel in which America just dipped its toes).... Under these circumstances Netanyahu -- who is in thrall to the extreme right outside the Likud party (Avigdor Lieberman) and within Likud -- is no more than a nuisance. Should he, as a result of the Palestinian initiative this September, become mired in a political debacle and a military confrontation, that's his problem. And if Israelis are forced to pay the price of Netanyahu's and Barak's errors, that's their problem. Nobody forced the Israeli public to become reconciled with this government alignment and with its mistakes."

#### VI. "Netanyahu Wants, but He Can't"

Channel 2-TV commentator Amnon Abramovich wrote in the mass-circulation, pluralist Yediot Aharonot (6/28): "Nothing truly annoys and upsets most Israelis more than the Gilad Shalit matter.... The German mediator devised a formula that Israel accepted. This caused Hamas to rise against Hamas; the man, who was 'one of [Hamas'] own,' held a doctorate in the history of Islam, and taught Hamas lessons it avidly took in, suddenly became the 'Zionists' collaborator. The ultimate list of prisoners whom Hamas wants Israel to release was carefully prepared; its only purpose is to undermine Abu Mazen's regime in the West Bank. This is why Abu Mazen, the Palestinian Authority, and the Americans are opposed to the deal. Israelis who believe that overall Israeli policy must be attentive to Abu Mazen, the P.A., and the U.S. administration have disregarded this. There are good reasons to criticize and goad Prime Minister Netanyahu -- over his concern for bolstering his government coalition, which surpasses the strengthening of his country; over his diplomatic failure; and over his not preparing Israeli society for power tests that will be

imposed on as an extension of the diplomatic failure; and many other topics. The way he has handled the Shalit case isn't one of those reasons -- because he can't do much more than what he has done so far."

#### VII. "Is Syrian Unrest an Invitation for al-Qaida to Step In?"

Arieh O'Sullivan, the Editor of the non-profit news organization The Media Line, wrote in The Jerusalem Post (6/28): "With mass protests in Syria showing no signs of abating despite a crackdown that led to 1,400 deaths and 12,000 refugees, President Bashar Assad may be losing his grip on the country, paving the way for al-Qaida or other Islamic groups to emerge as an important force, analysts say.... Martin Indyk, Vice President and Foreign Policy

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Director at the Brookings Institute in Washington, said [last week that] the U.S. would have preferred that the Arab Spring never occurred, its support for human rights, freedom and democratization notwithstanding. 'The U.S. prefers stability,' Indyk told the [Israeli Presidential] Conference in Jerusalem. 'But when it comes to Syria, the longer this goes on the more U.S. interests suffer.'" CUNNINGHAM

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ACTION EUR-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	VCI-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	AVC-00
	UTED-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00
	VCIE-00	NEA-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	NSCE-00	OES-00	OIC-00
	OIG-00	OMB-00	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	ISNE-00
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SENSITIVE  
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E.O. 13526: N/A

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PHS, EWWT, EI, IS, KPAL

SUBJECT: IRISH GROUP CLAIMS SABOTAGE FORCED FLOTILLA CANCELLATION

1. (SBU) Summary: The organizers of an Irish-owned boat slated to join the international action to run the blockage of Gaza, Irish Ship to Gaza, blamed damage to the vessel's propeller driveshaft on Israeli sabotage on June 30. The damage is apparently serious enough that the boat, the MV Saoirse, will not now leave Turkey to participate in the flotilla. The cut in the driveshaft is similar to that discovered on a Swedish flotilla vessel waiting in Athens. A number of Irish politicians, including some aboard the boat, are now demanding that the Irish government "call in" the Israeli Ambassador to express outrage over the alleged sabotage. End summary.

2. (U) Irish participants in this year's international flotilla attempting to break the Gaza blockade angrily denounced Israel on June 30 for allegedly sabotaging their vessel. Damage to the MV Saoirse's propeller driveshaft was discovered while the boat waited in Gocek, Turkey, to join the main flotilla. Similar cuts in the propeller driveshaft of the Swedish boat Juliano, waiting in Athens, forced its cancellation in the flotilla on June 27. Fintan Lane, coordinator of Irish Ship to Gaza, the organization behind the Saoirse, said the damage to the propeller shaft could have caused it to fail, putting the lives of all twenty passengers at risk. Six of the twenty Irish activists aboard the Saoirse now plan to sail on other vessels participating in the flotilla, including Lane, former Ireland international rugby player Trevor

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 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M. BOLSTER  
 DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012 201004163

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Hogan, and Socialist Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Paul Murphy.

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3. (U) Irish Ship to Gaza organizers released video footage and photos of the damage at press conference in Dublin on June 30. The group held a protest on July 1 at the Israeli Embassy and plans to stage an overnight demonstration. Former Fianna Fail parliamentarian Chris Andrews, a passenger aboard the Saoirse, has called on the Government to investigate the incident and "seek explanation" from the Israeli Ambassador. While no one has claimed responsibility for the damage sustained to the vessel, or confirmed that it was a deliberate act of sabotage, an Irish Ship to Gaza representative said that "agents of Israel" were "presumably" to blame.

4. (U) MEP Murphy released an individual statement not only blaming Israel for the damage to the Saoirse, but also accusing the United States of permitting Israeli action. "Those, like Hillary Clinton, who gave an implicit green light to the Israeli Defense Forces' aggression against the flotilla, share responsibility for this sabotage," Murphy wrote. Murphy's statement continues that despite the "terrorist-style sabotage of the MV Saoirse" he still will participate in the flotilla, now aboard an Italian boat.

5. (U) A number of Irish parliamentarians are demanding that the Government "call in" Israel's Ambassador to Ireland, Boaz Modai, to express anger over the alleged sabotage. Parliamentarian Richard Boyd Barrett of the United Left Alliance (ULA) described the apparent sabotage to the Saoirse an "absolute outrage." Independent parliamentarian Mick Wallace and ULA parliamentarian Joe Higgins also called for Israel to be held responsible. "The Irish Government must make an international issue of this and call in the Israeli Ambassador," Higgins said. Similar statements of condemnation were also made by Joan Collins (ULA), Clare Daly (ULA) and Thomas Pringle (independent - former Sinn Fein). None of Ireland's mainstream party politicians had immediate comment.

6. (U) Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Eamon Gilmore is reported to have raised the incident with an Israeli government delegation on June 30. Gilmore said there would be an investigation by Turkish authorities into what caused the damage to the boat, warning that the Irish Government would take a very serious view if it turned out that the Saoirse was indeed sabotaged. Photographs published in the Irish Times newspaper on July 1 show what are alleged to be the damage to the propeller driveshafts of the Saoirse and the Juliano. They appear to be almost identical shallow but distinct cuts.

7. (U) The Israeli Embassy in Dublin issued a statement on June 30 denying any involvement with problems aboard the Saoirse. The

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statement read: "We regret that we have no information about this

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event as we are not connected to it in any way. We have heard about it in the media like anyone else. We again reiterate that we welcome any aid that Irish citizens may wish to donate to the Palestinian people and we will gladly help pass it to Gaza through the regular land crossings."

8. (SBU) Comment: The Irish public, broadly pro-Palestine, will be quick to attribute the apparent sabotage to the Israelis, regardless of what the Turkish authorities ultimately conclude. That notwithstanding, the sabotage to the Saoirse is unlikely to trigger the massive protests that followed the 2010 flotilla raid. However, any Israeli actions against the remainder of the flotilla that are perceived to be overly aggressive will likely cause an outpouring of public condemnation. Despite close proximity to the Israeli Embassy, the July 1 protest did not spill over to the American Embassy, nor has this been the pattern in past instances. MEP Murphy may hope to link American support for Israel more closely in the debate over the Gaza blockade, but so far few in Ireland seem prepared to make that connection. End comment.

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-00	EEB-00	AF-00	VCI-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00
	DODE-00	WHA-00	PDI-00	DS-00	AVC-00	H-00	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	VCIE-00	NEA-00
	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OES-00	OIC-00	OIG-00	OMB-00	PA-00
	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	SP-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	BBG-00	IIP-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00
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ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY  
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 AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG  
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG

E.O. 13526: DECL: 2021/07/07

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, EG, GR, IS, TS, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH BOAT NO LONGER HEADED TO GAZA

REF: A) 11 PARIS 613;

CLASSIFIED BY: Christopher C Klein, Acting Minister Counselor for  
Political Affairs, State, Pol; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

1. (C) Greek authorities have blocked the French boat "Dignity Al  
 Karama" (reftel) in the port of Sitia, Crete, and French officials  
 believe the boat's crew will now abandon attempts to reach Gaza,

[redacted] told us [redacted]  
 [redacted] officials reached this conclusion after speaking July 7 to crew  
 members, who reportedly said they docked in Crete in order to  
 refuel. [redacted] predicted that passengers on the second French  
 boat, the "Louise Michel," will also give up their plans to sail  
 for Gaza and return to France. According to an article on the

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far-left French website Politis, some passengers on the Louise Michel have already flown back to Paris. Claude Leostic, a spokesman for the France Palestine Solidarity Association who was also a passenger on the Louise Michel, reportedly told Politis that "the heart of our approach was to send a solidarity message to the Gaza inhabitants and, in that sense, we have succeeded."

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ACTION INR-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	GHFS-00	RPPR-00	CIAE-00	INL-00
	DNI-00	PDI-00	DS-00	EAP-00	DHSE-00	AVC-00	EUR-00
	UTED-00	SIPD-00	DIAS-00	H-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	L-00
	MOFM-00	MOF-00	NEA-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-00
	EPAU-00	MCC-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	P-00	DOHS-00	IRM-00
	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00	EPAE-00	ECA-00	IIP-00
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	FA-00	SWCI-00	SANA-00	/000W			

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DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL  
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E.O. 13526: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, TU, PREL, KPAO

SUBJECT: Turkish Media Reaction for July 8, 2011

1. Turkey Media Highlights, July 8: Fm Davutoglu Speaks To Clinton;  
 Izmir Industrial Zone: "Turkey-US Joint Project for Energy  
 Productivity; Missile Shield Agreement with Turkey to be Signed  
 Next Week; UN Mavi Marmara Report: Turkey, Israel Unable to Meet in  
 the Middle; Ricciardone: It's Not Just a Simple Anniversary;  
 Kurdish Candidate: High Judiciary Closes Last Door on Dicle; Cicek  
 Asks Kilicdaroglu to Not Escalate Tensions; Erdogan: CHP Should  
 Seek Assurances from Judiciary; Oath-Taking Crisis To Be Resolved  
 Soon; Cicek Cools The Oath-Taking Crisis

How the US is Playing/Stories of Interest

2. "Fm Davutoglu Speaks To US Counterpart Clinton By Phone" (AA)

The semi-official AA news agency and TRT online report Turkish.

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Foreign Minister Davutoglu held a phone conversation with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Thursday. Sources said that Davutoglu and Clinton discussed the regional developments. Davutoglu and Clinton also discussed the meeting of the Libya Contact Group that will take place in north-western province of Istanbul on July 15.

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3. Izmir Industrial Zone: "Turkey-US Joint Project for Energy Productivity" (Haberalemi)

Turkish nationwide news agencies AA and Cihan and internet news portals report Amb Ricciardone and Izmir's Ataturk Organized Industrial Zone CEO Hilmi Ugurtas promoted a "pilot project" on energy productivity in industrial zones during a joint press conference. AA reports Ricciardone underlined trade between the US and Turkey had increased by 60 percent in the first four months of this year, and that the pilot project implemented in Izmir industrial zone has been an important step forward. The Ambassador emphasized the "win-win" aspect of the projects and joint initiatives, which result in development and create incentives for entrepreneurship. The US has made a small donation of USD 403,000 but "with this small donation, we can encourage huge development. Both sides can win. For trade and investment, both sides need to win," he said. Cihan News Agency (CHA) reports Ricciardone recalled that during his visit to Ankara, President Obama stated his aim of renewing the alliance between the two countries and the friendship between the two peoples. "We must renew the ties between our peoples. We especially must work on trade and agriculture. This pilot project involves very good cooperation. As Americans, we want to come to Izmir and work both for tourism, and trade and investment," said Ricciardone.

4. "Missile Shield Agreement with Turkey to be Signed Next Week" (Vatan)

Mainstream Vatan reports American national security officials told The Washington Times an agreement would be signed with Turkey next week for the deployment of missile shield radars in the country. Ankara, concerned that it would project an image of protecting Israel against Iran, had put forth the condition that information gathered by the radars would not be shared with Israel. In response to a question on the matter last week, US Assistant Secretary of State William Burns said the missile shield aim was to protect the NATO countries and Europe, and that the Pentagon had a separate and strong missile defense agreement with Israel. In February, four US Republican senators had proposed the radars should be deployed in Georgia instead of Turkey, reports Vatan.

5. UN Mavi Marmara Report: "Turkey, Israel Unable to Meet in the Middle" (Radikal)

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Media report Turkish and Israeli meetings for a settlement of the 'Mavi Marmara dispute' before the release of a UN panel report have failed. Radikal reports the release of the report on the Israeli raid on Turkish vessel Mavi Marmara was put off indefinitely due to UNCLASSIFIED disagreement between the sides. Sources told Israeli website Ynetnews.com that the report said Israel's blockade of Gaza was legitimate and in compliance with international law, but that

Israeli forces used excessive force during the intervention on the Mavi Marmara. Hurriyet, however, reports Turkey's semi-official Anatolian News Agency (AA) said the report criticized Israel for attacking the ship without prior notice, and mistreating the passengers on board. Mainstream Milliyet reports the UN report does not ask Israel to apologize to Turkey, but advises it to express regret over the loss of life. The diplomats in New York said the sides were looking for wording which would mean 'apology' in Turkish but 'regret' in Yiddish, reports Milliyet.

6. "Ricciardone: It's Not Just a Simple Anniversary" (AA, Samanyolu Haber, Haber3)

Media highlight Amb Ricciardone's words in Izmir that "for Americans, the day is a reminder of the ideals of the country's founders." In continuing National Day celebration coverage, media report the Ambassador said the first things we learn from the Declaration of Independence are the words "all men are created equal," and that we all have "unalienable rights" to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. They especially resound in this part of the world," he said. AA adds that Ambassador, speaking in Turkish and English, said that at the reception, both the independence of the US and the Turkish-American friendship was celebrated.

In the Headlines

7. Kurdish Candidate: "High Judiciary Closes Last Door on Dicle" (Radikal)

Media report the Constitutional Court has rejected the complaint of independent Kurdish candidate Hatip Dicle who was barred from parliament by the High Election Board (YSK) on the grounds of a 20-month prison sentence for terror propaganda. Hurriyet reports the Constitutional Court said unanimously it was not authorized to review the decisions of the YSK. By this ruling, the Court also gave an opening for the YSK designation of AKP deputy Oya Eronat as Diyarbakir MP instead of Dicle. Liberal Radikal reports Dicle's lawyer said they would appeal the decision at the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR).

8. "Cicek Asks Kilicdaroglu to Not Escalate Tensions in Oath-Taking

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All media report that on Thursday, CHP leader Kemal Klcdaroglu held a meeting with Parliament Speaker Cemil Cicek over the 'oath-taking crisis' in the parliament. Hurriyet reports Klcdaroglu told Cicek they aimed at resolving the problem, not dead-locking the parliament, and stressed CHP deputies would take the oath if they are given assurances for the resolution of the crisis. In the meeting, Cicek called on CHP and BDP to review their boycott decisions, and pledged to convey their points to PM Erdogan. Leftist-nationalist Cumhuriyet reports Cicek will meet PM Erdogan today at 14:00 to discuss the crisis. Milliyet says that over the weekend, Cicek will oversee talks between AK Party and CHP officials, and hopes that they will agree on a declaration for solving the crisis. If the parties reach a compromise on the declaration, CHP deputies might come to the parliament on Monday and take the oath before the debates on the government's program.

9. Erdogan: "CHP Should Seek Assurances from Judiciary" (Milliyet)

Mainstream Hurriyet reports PM Erdogan gave a quick response to Kilicdaroglu, and said, "We cannot give assurances. They have to get it from the judiciary." Mainstream Haberturk reports Erdogan blamed the CHP for falling into the boycott trap. In a group meeting Thursday with his AKP MPs, Erdogan said "The CHP has to find a way out on their own." "We are not a party to the problem, nor responsible for it. This problem should be resolved by the ones who created it," said Erdogan.

10. "Oath-Taking Crisis To Be Resolved Soon" (Milliyet)

Taha Akyol in Milliyet: "After meeting with Parliament Speaker Cicek, CHP leader Kilicdaroglu said his deputies would take the oath if Cicek meets with party deputy group chiefs in the parliament. Cicek will call such a meeting, because MHP and BDP lawmakers have already met with him. Kilicdaroglu doesn't expect a fast legal formula for the resolution of the crisis, he just wants a declaration of a will for a solution. And I'm sure Cicek will do that."

11. "Cicek Cools The Oath-Taking Crisis" (Radikal)

Murat Yetkin in Radikal: "It was learned that in a closed session with his AKP lawmakers, PM Erdogan said CHP should take oath and join the work of the parliament. In the first days of the crisis, Erdogan was saying the parliament would continue working even without the CHP. Actually, both Erdogan and Kilicdaroglu have understood that there will be no winners but many losers in this game. So an honorable exit for the CHP is a face-saving exit for the AK Party as well. Parliament Speaker Cicek has opened a door

for an honorable solution for the CHP. This first test shows that the election of Cicek as parliament speaker was a correct choice made by Erdogan."

Prepared by the Press Office, Public Affairs Section, US Embassy  
Ankara  
RICCIARDONE

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From: Maxfield, Karen B  
Sent: 6/3/2010 9:20:40 AM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: LONDON INPUT FOR EARLY ALERT 06-03-10

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MRN: 10 FTR 22854  
Date/DTG: Jun 03, 2010 / 031319Z JUN 10  
From: Maxfield, Karen B  
E.O.: 12958  
TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, IS, AF, SENV  
Subject: LONDON INPUT FOR EARLY ALERT 06-03-10

First five or six pages of every newspaper given to events in Cumbria after a taxi driver went on the rampage shooting 12 people dead and injuring eleven before turning the gun on himself. Continuing coverage of the aftermath of the Israeli assault on the Gaza aid flotilla with some reporting that the Turkish charity at the centre of the raid "was under intense scrutiny last night over its alleged links with militant organisations" [*The Times*]. A couple of papers pick up on Turkish news reports that "three of the four Turks killed in the onslaught had declared their readiness to become martyrs" [*The Guardian*]. The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico continues to receive coverage as anti-BP rallies take place in the US.

Gaza Flotilla

*The Times*: "Gaza aid charity 'has terrorist links' – main foreign story: "Despite their claims to be an entirely peaceful organisation, The Foundation for Human Rights, Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief has a history of involvement in Islamic extremism around the world and has been linked with an attempted bombing of an airport in the US;" "Ferryboat diplomacy: Israel has behaved appallingly, but those on board the flotilla also warrant scrutiny" – editorial: "Let us not be fooled. From the point of view of many on those vessels, this was not a humanitarian effort that went tragically wrong. It was a piece of political publicity that went horribly right.... Israel's greatest mistake, in behaving as a villain, has been to create an environment in which its enemies can be portrayed as not villainous at all. The truth is very different." "Gaza's waves will crash on Turkey's shore" – commentary page 25: "If the flotilla incident turns Turks against Israel and towards the east, it should fill us with fear for the future." "Peace hopes cast adrift" – analysis page 29: "As parliament called on the Government yesterday to review military co-operation with Israel, Turkey was drifting where some commentators argue it has always belonged – towards the Middle East."

*The Guardian*: "Turkish jihadis bent on violence attacked troops, Israel claims" – report page 10. "Activists allowed out but families still await their arrival" – report page 10. "Netanyahu defiant as pressure builds to lift siege" – report page 11: "Hillary Clinton...lined up with the UN on Tuesday when she used tough language calling the Israeli blockade 'unsustainable and unacceptable' – hours after Egypt announced it was opening its only crossing point into the coastal territory."

"Opening Gaza's vital lifeline poses dilemma for Egypt" – report page 11. "If Gaza's relief is a step closer they won't have died in vain" – commentary: "What is certain is that while some still have been intimidated by the Israeli military's violence, many more volunteers will now try to bring boatloads of aid to Gaza to widen that breach. The denial of Palestinian rights has become a great moral as well as political cause of our time. If relief for Gaza's people is even a step nearer, the victims of the Mavi Marmara will not have died in vain."

*Daily Telegraph*: "Activists killed on ship wanted to be martyrs" – report page 14. "Israeli ministers blame army chiefs for the bungled commando raid" – report page 14.

*The Independent*: "Charges against activists abandoned after Turkey delivers ultimatum" – report page 6. "Passengers on flotilla had al-Qa'ida links, claims Israel" – report page 7: "The claims are part of a sophisticated Israeli government media offensive to present its side of the story in a bid to salvage its shattered international reputation." "Israel had few enough friends to start with" – commentary: "Washington...will put pressure on Israel to show a bit more moderation in its behaviour. But in the end its commitment to the country is too great, its support within Washington too strong and the

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administration's fear of instability in the region too great to change policy."

#### Afghanistan

*The Times*: "Taliban send message of war to Karzai's peace summit" – report page 34: "Mr. Karzai's message was clearly designed to fit in with the White House's rhetoric about possible amnesties for senior Taliban – but strictly no talks with al-Qaeda.... However, he admitted that his Government and the international troops which secure it, were partly to blame for some people supporting the insurgency."

*The Guardian*: "Rockets and burqa-clad suicide bombers mar Kabul meeting" – report page 22: "Some 12,000 security personnel were protecting the jirga, raising concerns about safety at next month's international conference of foreign ministers in Kabul." "All at peace, except for the war" – editorial: "The military campaign is tying itself in knots. The British commander of Nato forces in southern Afghanistan... can insist as loudly as he likes that command is blind to nationality. The fact is that for the second time in recent memory, an American force has taken over command from a British one that has bitten off more than it can chew."

*Daily Telegraph*: "Taliban attack peace conference" – report page 16.

*The Independent*: "Taliban rocket attack shakes peace congress in Afghanistan" – report page 30: "The attack... was a clear statement that the Taliban were not prepared to settle for peace on Mr. Karzai's terms." "Outrage at appointment of chairman stops jirga" – report page 30.

#### Europe

*The Times*: "Europe launches credit ratings offensive" – report page 39: "The big three credit ratings agencies were threatened yesterday with fines and the creation of a new state-backed competitor.... The Commission's plans were welcomed by Liberal MEPs but dismissed as heavy-handed by Conservatives." "Policymakers are in denial" – analysis on the same page: "Credit ratings agencies have not covered themselves in glory in the past few years, but European policymakers must be crackers if they think that creating a new, state-backed agency to rival the big three can possibly improve things. It all smacks of shooting the messenger."

*The Guardian*: "End of the love affair with Europe isolates Merkel" – report page 24: "The change – from pushing Europe forward to balking at the sacrifices Germany has to make – is a tectonic shift in the EU. Nowhere has the new approach been more striking than in the euro crisis, where Merkel's mixture of hectoring and hesitation has shocked fellow EU leaders and generated mutual recrimination." "EU plans watchdog for credit ratings agencies" – main financial report: "As world leaders prepare for crunch talks at the G20 meeting at the end of this month, European officials outlined plans to tackle the credit rating system that many in Brussels blame for exacerbating the euro financial crisis."

*Daily Telegraph*: "Germany could soon be ruled by two women" – report page 15: "Ursula von der Leyen is Mrs Merkel's preferred choice to become Germany's first female head of state replacing Horst Koehler who resigned on Monday."

*The Independent*: "Two women on top: Germany set to elect female president" – report page 37: "Politically, the choice of a woman as president would make Germany arguably the most female-dominated nation in Europe."

#### Oil Spill

*The Times*: "Worried Cameron keeps his distance from troubled BP" – report page 18. "Anger over spill focuses on company chief with reputation for candour" – report page 18.

*The Guardian*: "Delay in sealing leak fuels speculation of BP takeover" – report page 18: "Speculation about BP's future intensified after the US attorney general, Eric Holder announced a criminal investigation of the disaster, though he did not specify BP by name." "Company's name is mud and the future is murky" – report page 19: "BP's name is, quite simply, dirt. Americans are disgusted with the once proud London-based energy company. As political leaders threaten criminal prosecution and possible seizure of the company's assets, and environmentalists bay for blood, BP's stock is plummeting." "How the Sun King sank BP" – commentary: "BP remains a hugely successful corporation. The insatiable demand for oil practically ensures its survival. Any opportunistic takeover bid by a major rival will be stymied by laws preventing the formation of cartels."

*The Independent*: "More trouble on the horizon for BP as oil moves towards Florida" – main foreign story: "The movement of the slick towards tourist areas will further fuel anger in the region at BP.... President Barack Obama last night highlighted suspicions that the oil spill was an accident that could have been avoided.... Mr. Obama's policy programme in

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his second year in office risks being overwhelmed by the ongoing catastrophe in the Gulf of Mexico. While some have called it 'Mr. Obama's Hurricane Katrina', at least that event itself was over quickly. The spill continues, however, causing others to recall how the Iran hostage crisis that lasted for 444 days, from 1979 to 1981, crippled a large part of the presidency of Jimmy Carter."

Japan

*The Times*: "Prime Minister quits after eight months of dithering" – report page 33: "He came to power promising to tame the powerful Japanese bureaucracy, improve state welfare benefits and put Japan on a more equal footing with the United States. He leaves office having achieved little of this, after repeated dithering that alienated his supporters, the Japanese public and the US Government." "Bumbling leader failed, but paved the way for change" – analysis on the same page.

*The Guardian*: "Japan's prime minister resigns after failure to move US base" – report page 23: "The world's second biggest economy faces another period of uncertainty after Hatoyama...became Japan's fourth prime minister in as many years to step down after 12 months or less in power."

*Daily Telegraph*: "Japan's PM resigns over election funds scandal" – report page 16.

*The Independent*: "Japanese PM resigns after failing to take on US over Okinawa base" – report page 31.

---

Drafted By: LONDON:Maxfield, Karen B

Released By: LONDON:Maxfield, Karen B

Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

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Page 1 of 4

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<![endif]-->

**From:** Katz, Daniel S (Rome)  
**Sent:** 6/1/2010 7:12:20 AM  
**To:** svcSMARTHBTSP08  
**Subject:** Embassy Rome Daily Report June 1, 2010  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

**CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN**

**MRN:** 10 MDA 1181  
**Date/DTG:** Jun 01, 2010 / 280615Z JUN 10  
**From:** Katz, Daniel S (Rome)  
**Action:** Anderson, Stephen C (Rome)ROUTINE; Arla, Salvatore A (Rome-MLO)ROUTINE; Ashley, Donald D (Rome)ROUTINE; Ayala, William M (Rome)ROUTINE; Bell, JaniceROUTINE; Benway, Angela E (Milan)ROUTINE; Benz, Charles E (Rome-MLO)ROUTINE; Bergeson, Mark E (Rome)ROUTINE; Bland, J Nathan (Vatican)ROUTINE; Blazey, Elizabeth Z ROUTINE; Bliss, Amy M (Naples)ROUTINE; Boyer, Spencar PROUTINE; Bradley, Tobin J ROUTINE; Brew, Kevin M (Rome)ROUTINE; Brownfeld, Peter E (Rome)ROUTINE; Cali, Philip M (Rome)ROUTINE; Carland, RaphaelROUTINE; Carlson, Robert W (Naples) ROUTINE; Chupp, Teresa G (Rome)ROUTINE; Countryman, Mary E (Florence)ROUTINE; Cowan, Fleur S (Rome)ROUTINE; Crawford, Nace B (Rome)ROUTINE; Curran, Christopher P (Rome)ROUTINE; Degory, John A (Vatican)ROUTINE; DeLambert, Rick A (Milan)ROUTINE; Diaz, Miguel H (Vatican)ROUTINE; Dibble, Elizabeth L (Rome)ROUTINE; EUR-WE-DLROUTINE; Foley, Rafael P (Vatican) ROUTINE; Fouts, Daniel J (Rome)ROUTINE; Freeman, Vincent L (Rome)ROUTINE; Fried, DanielROUTINE; Gemmell, Lawrence H (Rome)ROUTINE; Hall, Morgan C (Rome) ROUTINE; Hankins, Stacie R (Rome)ROUTINE; Harvey, Patrick J (DRL)ROUTINE; Hebert, Margaret R (Rome)ROUTINE; Hickemell, Paul E (Rome)ROUTINE; Hiller, Jean E (Rome)ROUTINE; Hillmeyer, John J (Milan)ROUTINE; Hogle, Charles MROUTINE ; Israelsen, Brent W (Florence)ROUTINE; Iversen, Lisa O (Rome)ROUTINE; Johnson, Seneca EROUTINE; Juliao, Jeanne M (Milan)ROUTINE; Katz, Daniel S (Rome) ROUTINE; Kostelandck, David X (Moscow)ROUTINE; Lairea, John F (Florence)ROUTINE; Le Claire, Claire (Rome)ROUTINE; Leaf, Barbara A (Rome)ROUTINE; Lora, Terrie Buell (Rome)ROUTINE; Maldonado, Jon M (Rome)ROUTINE; Meara, William R (Rome)ROUTINE; Morrill, Brian D (Rome)ROUTINE; Nash, Robert CROUTINE ; Notarianni, Stephan F (Rome-MLO)ROUTINE; Noyes, Julieta Valls (Vatican)ROUTINE; Noyes, Nick (Rome)ROUTINE; Odean, Joan (Rome)ROUTINE; Perez, Carol Z (Milan)ROUTINE; Preston, Jean E (Rome)ROUTINE; Quintal, Paul N (Rome)ROUTINE; Rakich, Kathryn A (Florence)ROUTINE; Reed, Sherrell I (Rome)ROUTINE; Sanderson, Mary A ROUTINE; Schaaf, Jennifer S (Rome)ROUTINE; Schaff, Charles E (Rome)ROUTINE; Schubert, Paul F (Rome)ROUTINE; Sellquini, Louis P (Rome)ROUTINE; Sharkey, James C ROUTINE; Smith, Donna L (Rome)ROUTINE; Soya, Brenda C (Vatican)ROUTINE; Swann, Sonja (Rome)ROUTINE; Tarantolo, Sonia S (Milan)ROUTINE; Thiede, Paula S (Rome)ROUTINE; Thome, David H (Rome)ROUTINE; Truhn, J Patrick (Naples)ROUTINE; Viola, Vincent (Rome)ROUTINE; Volk, Carol J (Rome) ROUTINE; Waser, Tamir GROUTINE; Wasley, Liam J (Rome)ROUTINE; Weaver, Brittany M ROUTINE; White, George M (Rome)ROUTINE; Wohlauer, Benjamin V (Milan)ROUTINE; Wood, Kevin M (Naples)ROUTINE; Zalewski, Dianne D (Vatican)ROUTINE; Ziff, Benjamin G (Rome)ROUTINE; ATUKORALAV@TSDN.TREASURY.SGOV.GOVROUTINE; CICASJ@JDISS.CIA.SGOV.GOVROUTINE; CLETUS.HAGG@AFOSI.AF.SMIL.MILROUTINE; DIMORFX@DIA.SMIL.MIL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER  
DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012 201004163

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ROUTINE; ERIK.STOHLMANN@EUCOM.SMIL.MILROUTINE;  
FINKELC@JDISS.CIA.SGOV.GOVROUTINE; OSCAR.GIFFORD@AFOSI.AF.SMIL.MIL  
ROUTINE; JEFFREY.HOOD@DIA.SMIL.MILROUTINE; KURMANN@JDISS.CIA.SGOV.GOV  
ROUTINE; MCGANNO@JDISS.CIA.SGOV.GOVROUTINE;  
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ROUTINE; PATRICK.MCCLELLAND@AVIANO.AF.SMIL.MILROUTINE;  
MIKE.LENTS@DIA.SMIL.MILROUTINE; LOUIS.REYNOLDS@DIA.SMIL.MILROUTINE;  
MARY.MILLER@OSD.SMIL.MILROUTINE; PATRICK.MCLEAN@DIA.SMIL.MILROUTINE;  
SALVADOR.FRAGA@AFOSI.AF.SMIL.MILROUTINE;  
ANDREW.WINTERITZ@OSD.SMIL.MILROUTINE;  
GREGORY.BART@HQ.SOCOM.SMIL.MILROUTINE; PETER.KIM@JS.SMIL.MILROUTINE;  
DELUCAC@JDISS.CIA.SGOV.GOVROUTINE; JAIME.TAYLOR.CTR@OSD.SMIL.MIL  
ROUTINE; DEANNA.DESANTE@OSD.SMIL.MILROUTINE; perezj@jdiss.cia.sgov.govROUTINE

E.O.:

TAGS:

Captions:

Subject:

12958  
PGOV, PREL, ECON, IT  
SIPDIS, NOFORN  
Embassy Rome Daily Report June 1, 2010

### EMBASSY ROME DAILY REPORT

June 1, 2010

#### Political Report

- o (C) MFA SecGen Complains Angrily About NSS Language on "Key Allies"
- o (C/NF) Fini: I Will not Cause Problems over Austerity Measures.
- o (UN) GOI Reaction to Israeli Attack.

#### Economic Report

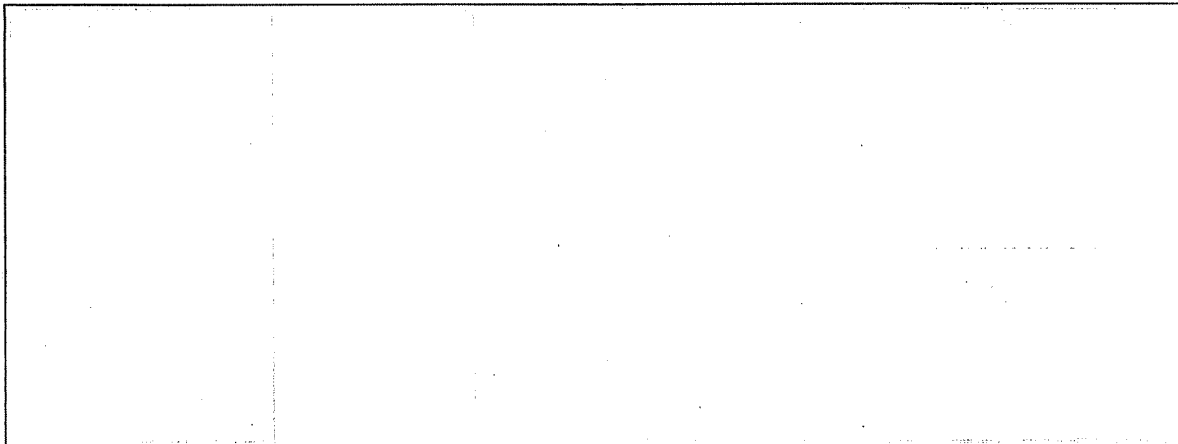
- o (U) BOI Governor Endorses GOI Deficit Reduction Package.

#### UPCOMING VISITS

#### GOI Upcoming Visits

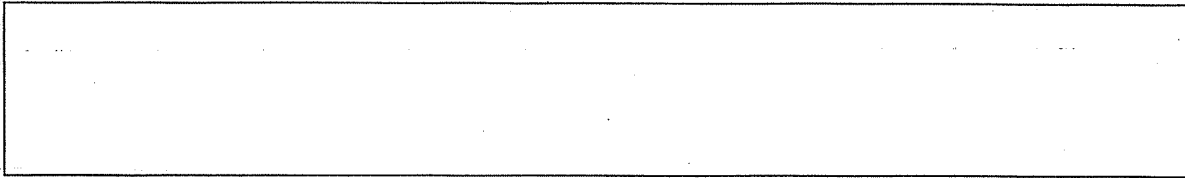
Read Recent Cables from Rome.

#### Political Report



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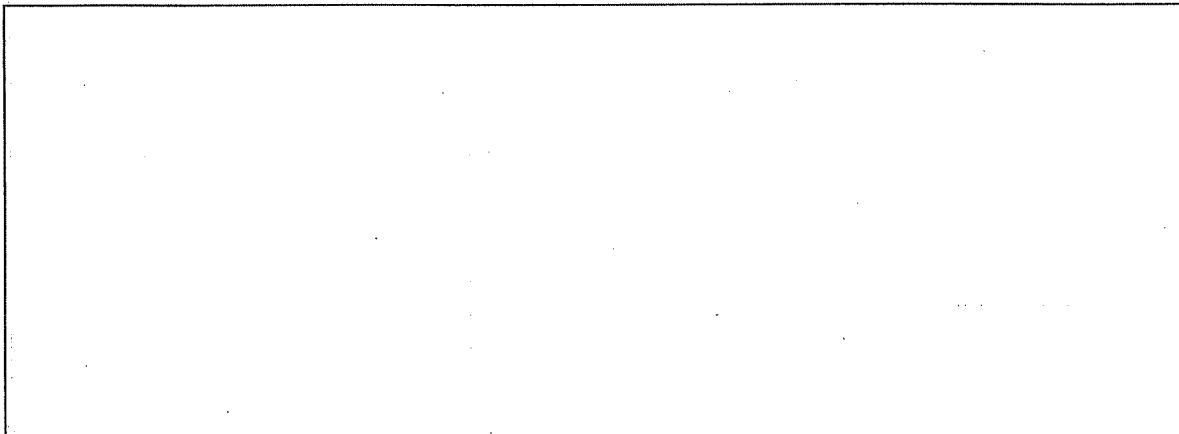


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(UN) **GOI Reaction to Israeli Attack.** The Israeli attack on the Turkish NGO ship convoy delivering humanitarian aid to Gaza provoked comment by a number of senior officials as well as wide press and media coverage. In a statement on the Quirinale web site, President Napolitano expressed "consternation and alarm" and said he "hoped the reasons for dialogue will prevail over violence, to avoid an even more serious spiral of tension and clashes that would have disastrous consequences on the difficult and fragile peace process in the Middle East." FM Frattini met Turkish Minister for European Affairs Egemen Bagis in Rome on May 31. At the conclusion of the meeting (in a statement on the MFA website), he expressed his "firm belief that in no way can the use of force and the killing of human lives become instruments to assert one's positions." In separate statements, Frattini characterized the killing of civilians as an "absolutely serious" action that requires "explanations" from Israel. He added, "Italy is a friend of Israel and therefore has the responsibility of saying what it thinks. The Israeli democracy must give a clear answer in order to continue to be firm and credible at the peace table with the Palestinian Authority."

(UN) Today, Frattini stated to RAI television "I think that at the moment Israel has a great opportunity, after this very serious act. After this frankly inexplicable and absolutely serious error, it could do a gesture of détente and say, let's multiply efforts toward peace; let's accelerate negotiations; let's give the Palestinians a state soonest." MFA Chief of Cabinet Amb Terracciano called Israeli Ambassador Meir for "explanations." Meir cited the Israeli Army's report that stated they were obliged to intervene. MFA U/S for Europe Mantica said the flotilla was a "wanted provocation" by activists. PD leader Bersani remarked that the blood that was shed "stifles prospects of peace." There were demonstrations in various Italian cities on May 31, including in Rome. As yet, there has been no reaction from PM Berlusconi.

#### Economic Report



NR

#### Upcoming Visits

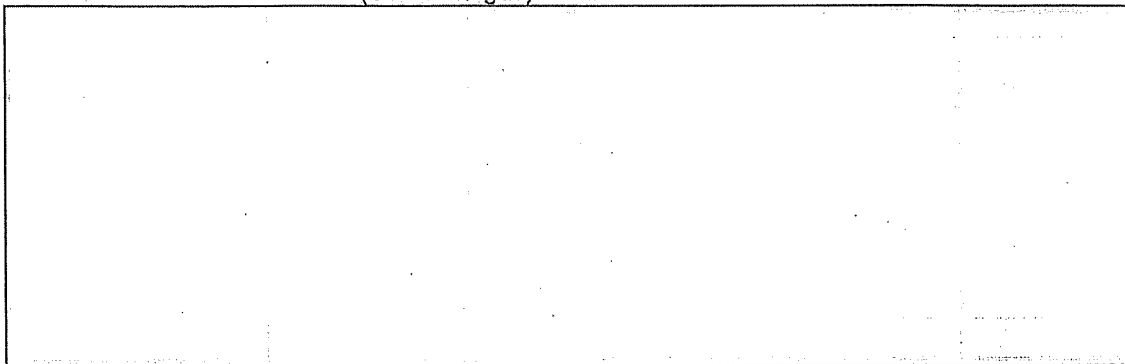
June 5-7

Codel Inhofe, Venice and Vicenza (Control: Milan: Tarantolo)

June 24-25

Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood, Rome and Florence

(Control: Algeo)



NR

Visit the [Italy Portal on Intellipedia](#).  
Read archived [Daily Reports](#) on our [Intelink Blog](#).

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**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 (b), (d)  
Pol  
Dept. of State  
**Declassify on:** 2020/06/01  
**Drafted By:** ROME:Katz, Daniel S (Rome)  
**Approved By:** POL:Wasley, Liam J (Rome)  
**Released By:** ROME:Katz, Daniel S (Rome)  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat  
**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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**Mendel, Teresa S**

**From:** Netos, Eleftherios E  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 11, 2010 11:44 AM  
**To:** Marsh, Denise M  
**Cc:** Mendel, Teresa S; EUR-SE-DAR-DL  
**Subject:** FW: Free Gaza later this month

Denise.

Looks to me like the Free Gaza folks are now staging from Turkey vice Cyprus (see Ankara's cable on the High Side). I haven't heard anything from Nicosia to indicate they planned on sailing from there this time around (though I may be wrong, if the groups are planning on leaving in separate groups from Cyprus and Turkey).

Terry

---

**From:** Mendel, Teresa S  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 11, 2010 11:37 AM  
**To:** Netos, Eleftherios E  
**Subject:** FW: Free Gaza later this month

fyi

---

**From:** Richter, Kim B  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 11, 2010 11:37 AM  
**To:** Mendel, Teresa S  
**Subject:** FW: Free Gaza later this month

FYI.

## May 2010 sailing

The Free Gaza Movement and the Humanitarian Relief Foundation are partnering to send multiple ships to the Gaza Strip in May 2010. Under the coordination of the Free Gaza Movement, numerous human rights organizations, including the Turkish Relief Foundation (IHH), the Perdana Global Peace Organization from Malaysia, the European Campaign to End the Siege of Gaza, and the Swedish and Greek Boat to Gaza initiatives will send three cargo ships loaded with reconstruction, medical and educational supplies. Multiple passenger boats with over 600 people on board will accompany the cargo ships. These passengers include members of Parliament from around the world, U.N., human rights and trade union activists, as well as journalists who will document the largest coordinated effort to directly confront Israel's blockade of Gaza and take in basic supplies. These include the MV Rachel Corrie.<sup>1331134</sup> In response to the plans, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman said: "These people are not supporting the Palestinians and they are not even supporting humanitarian causes. They are engaged in only one thing, and that is to create provocations and to collaborate with Hamas propaganda."<sup>134</sup>

**Mendel, Teresa S**

From: Mendel, Teresa S  
 Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2010 1:13 PM  
 To: Miller, Andrew T  
 Subject: FW: Free Gaza later this month

RELEASED IN FULL

Free Gaza Movement departing out of Turkey. For more info there is a cable on the high side. I have forwarded to Cons in Ankara just in case they were not aware of it.

Teresa

---

From: Richter, Kim B  
 Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2010 11:37 AM  
 To: Mendel, Teresa S  
 Subject: FW: Free Gaza later this month

FYI.

**May 2010 sailing**

The Free Gaza Movement and the Humanitarian Relief Foundation are partnering to send multiple ships to the Gaza Strip in May 2010. Under the coordination of the Free Gaza Movement, numerous human rights organizations, including the Turkish Relief Foundation (IHH), the Perdana Global Peace Organization from Malaysia, the European Campaign to End the Siege of Gaza, and the Swedish and Greek Boat to Gaza initiatives will send three cargo ships loaded with reconstruction, medical and educational supplies. Multiple passenger boats with over 600 people on board will accompany the cargo ships. These passengers include members of Parliament from around the world, U.N., human rights and trade union activists, as well as journalists who will document the largest coordinated effort to directly confront Israel's blockade of Gaza and take in basic supplies. These include the MV Rachel Corrie.<sup>[33][34]</sup> In response to the plans, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman said: "These people are not supporting the Palestinians and they are not even supporting humanitarian causes. They are engaged in only one thing, and that is to create provocations and to collaborate with Hamas propaganda."<sup>[34]</sup>

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Mendel, Teresa S

RELEASED IN PART

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2010 7:21 AM  
To: Hanrahan, Richard F  
Subject: Re: Thank you for asking for the passenger list

B6

(b)(6)

Dear Mr. Hanrahan: Thank you so much for your inquiry regarding sailing to Gaza at the end of May. We are not sailing from Cyprus but from many other ports in the Mediterranean.

Would you let me know where I can access the Privacy Act Waivers? Is it possible to download them from the State Department website? Thank you. Best regards, [redacted]

(b)(6)

B6

On Thu, May 13, 2010 at 12:00 PM, Hanrahan, Richard F <HanrahanRF@state.gov> wrote:

Dear [redacted]

(b)(6)

According to recent press reports Free Gaza ships may again attempt to travel to Gaza from Cyprus. I would be very grateful if you would provide me a list with the names and dates of birth of any passengers who are U.S. citizens, and encourage them to sign Privacy Act waivers.

Sincerely,

Richard Hanrahan

U.S. Consul \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Embassy

Nicosia, Cyprus

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Sunday, April 04, 2010 7:44 PM  
To: Hanrahan, Richard F  
Subject: Thank you for asking for the passenger list

(b)(6)

Dear Richard: I have just received your request about passengers who are going to go on the flotilla. I do have a couple of questions for you.

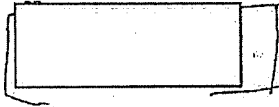
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REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER  
DATE/CASE ID: 17 NOV 2011: 201004163

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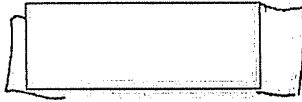
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1. We are not leaving from Cyprus this time but from Greece, Turkey, Sweden and Ireland.
2. Do we still send the names to you or do we contact the U.S. Consulate/Embassy in the countries where the passengers embark?

Thank you for your concern. We'd like to also state that the only threat in the area is Israel's response to a human rights mission. We do hope you let them know that their brutal responses to American citizens will not be tolerated.



(b)(6)



(b)(6)

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006

Mendel, Teresa S

RELEASED IN FULL

**From:** Hanrahan, Richard F  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 13, 2010 8:30 AM  
**To:** Mendel, Teresa S; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G  
**Cc:** Cohen, Jonathan R; Stewart, Nan E  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Movement  
**Attachments:** RE: Important: Please provide names of U.S. citizens planning to travel to Gaza; Re: Thank you for asking for the passenger list

Teresa,

I have attached the replies I received from my contacts in the Free Gaza movement. I will keep you keep you informed of any further developments.

Richard

---

**From:** Mendel, Teresa S  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2010 6:41 PM  
**To:** Davison, Kees C; Hanrahan, Richard F; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G  
**Subject:** FW: Free Gaza Movement

All,

Yesterday we were informed that the Free Gaza movement would be attempting to sail into the Gaza, again. Could you please work with any contacts you have to see if we might obtain the manifest for these boats. Today I was informed that there may be additional boats leaving out of Nicosia and Athens.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Best,

Teresa

## May 2010 sailing

The Free Gaza Movement and the Humanitarian Relief Foundation are partnering to send multiple ships to the Gaza Strip in May 2010. Under the coordination of the Free Gaza Movement, numerous human rights organizations, including the Turkish Relief Foundation (IHH), the Perdana Global Peace Organization from Malaysia, the European Campaign to End the Siege of Gaza, and the Swedish and Greek Boat to Gaza initiatives will send three cargo ships loaded with reconstruction, medical and educational supplies. Multiple passenger boats with over 600 people on board will accompany the cargo ships. These passengers include members of Parliament from around the world, U.N., human rights and trade union activists, as well as journalists who will document the largest coordinated effort to directly confront Israel's blockade of Gaza and take in basic supplies. These include the MV Rachel Corrie.<sup>[33][34]</sup> In response to the plans, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman said: "These people are not supporting the Palestinians and they are not even supporting humanitarian causes. They are engaged in only one thing, and that is to create provocations and to collaborate with Hamas propaganda."<sup>[34]</sup>

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER  
DATE/CASE ID: 17 NOV 2011 201004163

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**From:** Richter, Kim B  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2010 11:30 AM  
**To:** Mendel, Teresa S  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza

There will be several ships and the desk seems to think some of them will be leaving out Athens and Nicosia. They have in the past.

---

**From:** Mendel, Teresa S  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2010 10:49 AM  
**To:** Richter, Kim B  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza

You mean Ankara? Was these two locations the first launching/departure sites for the group?

---

**From:** Richter, Kim B  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2010 10:30 AM  
**To:** Mendel, Teresa S  
**Subject:** Free Gaza

Can you check with Nicosia and Athens to see if they have info on any sailings and a manifest?

Thanks

*Kim Richter*  
CA/OCS/ACS/NESCA  
(202) 647-8308  
Bahrain, Bhutan, Egypt, India, Israel, West Bank, Gaza, Nepal,  
Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Maldives

[richterkb@state.gov](mailto:richterkb@state.gov)

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**Mendel, Teresa S**

From: Hanrahan, Richard F  
 Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2010 12:35 AM  
 To: Mendel, Teresa S  
 Cc: Stewart, Nan E  
 Subject: RE: Free Gaza Movement

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Teresa,

I communicated with the 'Free Gaza' organization several weeks ago and stressed the importance of letting us know the names of Amcit passengers. I also explained the utility of providing Privacy Act waivers so we can communicate with friends or relatives. They informed me that none of the boats to Gaza will depart from Cyprus, perhaps their plans have changed.

Nan Stewart has arrived in Cyprus and is now running the Consular Section. Please include here on future email messages to Nicosia.

Thanks,

Richard

---

From: Mendel, Teresa S  
 Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 6:41 PM  
 To: Davison, Kees C; Hanrahan, Richard F; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G  
 Subject: FW: Free Gaza Movement

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Thank you in advance for your help.

Best,

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**To:** Mendel, Teresa S  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza

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Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Maldives

[richterkb@state.gov](mailto:richterkb@state.gov)

2  
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**Mendel, Teresa S**

From: Keen, Daniel G  
 Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2010 1:51 AM  
 To: Sisli, Fatih  
 Cc: Mendel, Teresa S; Ogle, Karen L; Appleton, Richard H  
 Subject: RE: Free Gaza Movement

RELEASED IN FULL

Hi Fatih Bey,

Do we have any contacts who might be able to obtain the passenger manifests for the boats referenced below?

Thank you,

Daniel

---

From: Mendel, Teresa S  
 Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 6:41 PM  
 To: Davison, Kees C; Hanrahan, Richard F; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G  
 Subject: FW: Free Gaza Movement

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---

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 Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 11:30 AM  
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER  
 DATE/CASE ID: 17 NOV 2011 201004163

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**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza

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**To:** Richter, Kim B  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza

You mean Ankara? Was these two locations the first launching/departure sites for the group?

---

**From:** Richter, Kim B  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2010 10:30 AM  
**To:** Mendel, Teresa S  
**Subject:** Free Gaza

Can you check with Nicosia and Athens to see if they have info on any sailings and a manifest?

Thanks

*Kim Richter*  
CA/OCS/ACS/NESCA  
(202) 647-8308  
Bahrain, Bhutan, Egypt, India, Israel, West Bank, Gaza, Nepal,  
Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Maldives

[richterkb@state.gov](mailto:richterkb@state.gov)

2  
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009

RELEASED IN FULL

**From:** Davison, Kees C  
**To:** Mendel, Teresa S  
**Subject:** FW: Free Gaza Movement  
**Sent:** 5/14/2010 9:07:52 AM

*Names of ships but not the manifests. We are still expecting to get them, we hope by early next week.*

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Houndoumadi, Ioanna G  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 13, 2010 3:52 PM  
**To:** Davison, Kees C  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Movement

I just received a fax from the Greek Ministry of Merchant Marine the following Cargo ships have declared the following destinations:  
BESIRE KAIKAVAN, OCEAN STAR and NOVOROSTYSK STAR, heading to Israel. SHENANDOAH HIGHWAY to Syria, MAESTRO OCEAN to Lebanon, AND KYKLADES to Jordan.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Davison, Kees C  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 13, 2010 3:36 PM  
**To:** Houndoumadi, Ioanna G  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Movement

Did we hear anything on this?

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Houndoumadi, Ioanna G  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 13, 2010 9:21 AM  
**To:** ATHENS-ACS  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Movement

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Printed By: Mendel, Teresa S  
Page 1 of 3

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER  
DATE/CASE ID: 17-NOV-2011 201004163

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I called the Chief's Office of the Port Police in Piraeus and I am expecting them to call me back. Are we interested in getting a manifest of the boats or the people on board these boats?

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Davison, Kees C  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 13, 2010 9:04 AM  
**To:** ATHENS-ACS  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Movement

Have we seen anything on ships leaving Piraeus to help folks on the Gaza Strip?

We are being asked to try to get a manifest.

I'd be particularly interested in learning if any of the passengers are American citizens.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Mendel, Teresa S  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2010 6:41 PM  
**To:** Davison, Kees C; Hanrahan, Richard F; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G  
**Subject:** FW: Free Gaza Movement

All,

Yesterday we were informed that the Free Gaza movement would be attempting to sail into the Gaza, again. Could you please work with any contacts you have to see if we might obtain the manifest for these boats. Today I was informed that there may be additional boats leaving out of Nicosia and Athens.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Best,

Teresa

## May 2010 sailing

The Free Gaza Movement and the Humanitarian Relief Foundation are partnering to send multiple ships to the Gaza Strip in May 2010. Under the coordination of the Free Gaza Movement, numerous human rights organizations, including the Turkish Relief Foundation

(IHH), the Perdana Global Peace Organization from Malaysia, the European Campaign to End the Siege of Gaza, and the Swedish and Greek Boat to Gaza initiatives will send three cargo ships loaded with reconstruction, medical and educational supplies. Multiple passenger boats with over 600 people on board will accompany the cargo ships. These passengers include members of Parliament from around the world, U.N., human rights and trade union activists, as well as journalists who will document the largest coordinated effort to directly confront Israel's blockade of Gaza and take in basic supplies. These include the MV Rachel Corrie.<sup>[33][34]</sup> In response to the plans, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman said: "These people are not supporting the Palestinians and they are not even supporting humanitarian causes. They are engaged in only one thing, and that is to create provocations and to collaborate with Hamas propaganda."<sup>[34]</sup>

---

**From:** Richter, Kim B  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2010 11:30 AM  
**To:** Mendel, Teresa S  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza

There will be several ships and the desk seems to think some of them will be leaving out Athens and Nicosia. They have in the past.

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**From:** Mendel, Teresa S  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2010 10:49 AM  
**To:** Richter, Kim B  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza

You mean Ankara? Was these two locations the first launching/departure sites for the group?

---

**From:** Richter, Kim B  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2010 10:30 AM  
**To:** Mendel, Teresa S  
**Subject:** Free Gaza

Can you check with Nicosia and Athens to see if they have info on any sailings and a manifest?

Thanks

*Kim Richter*  
CA/OCS/ACS/NESCA  
(202) 647-8308  
Bahrain, Bhutan, Egypt, India, Israel, West Bank, Gaza, Nepal,  
Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Maldives

[richterkb@state.gov](mailto:richterkb@state.gov)

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010  
RELEASED IN FULL

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Friday, May 14, 2010 10:11 AM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Greene, David J; Tyson, Paul H; Reed, Julia G  
**Subject:** Upcoming Free Gaza Flotilla

Everyone – I am putting together this list to keep people looped in regarding the upcoming flotilla of ships to Gaza by the Free Gaza Movement (<http://www.freegaza.org/>) and associated organizations, which has previously sent ships to circumvent the Israeli and Egyptian closure of the Gaza Strip. By using this collective, we can make sure all the interested parties at State can stay looped in on this as it unfolds.

Previous Free Gaza trips consisted of a single vessel, the first few which were allowed to enter Gazan waters, and the most recent two which were interdicted by the Israeli Navy, leading to the deportation of several Amcits on the most recent visit. On May 24, a flotilla of ships is departing from Turkey and Greece bound for Gaza and may begin to arrive the following day in Gazan waters. Press is reporting that an additional ship, setting sail from Ireland, has been delayed - <http://www.independent.ie/national-news/tricolour-on-ship-delays-gaza-aid-mission-2179693.html>.

*Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.*  
Desk Officer - NEA/IPA  
Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs  
Phone (202) 647-2647  
Fax (202) 736-4461

This message is UNCLASSIFIED/SBU according to the definitions provided by E.O. 12958.

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DATE/CASE ID: 17 NOV 2011 201004163

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Country Code	City	Address	Arrival Date/Time	Departure Date/Time	Signature	Arrival Date/Time	Destination	Remarks	Home Call	Office	Home Address	Passport #	Agency	Employment	Relationship	Sex	Date of Birth	Language	Place of Birth	Other	
	Albans	AF 1832	18 May/ 4:50pm	11 June/ 7:00am/ AF 0984/ 12:50pm	11 June/ 11:00am/ SFO/ AF 0984/ 12:50pm	11 June/ 11:00am/ SFO/ AF 0984/ 12:50pm	11 June/ 11:00am/ SFO/ AF 0984/ 12:50pm		N/A			22002014						English	Barbara Lee, #1	Blanc, Fenstah	Barbara Borer
	Albans	AF 1832	19 May/ 4:30pm	11 June/ 7:00am/ AF 0984/ 12:50pm	11 June/ 11:00am/ SFO/ AF 0984/ 12:50pm	11 June/ 11:00am/ SFO/ AF 0984/ 12:50pm	11 June/ 11:00am/ SFO/ AF 0984/ 12:50pm		N/A			27192016						English, French, Arabic	George Miller, #7, CA	Diane Feinstoh	Barbara Borer
	Albans	AF 1832	18 May/ 5:30pm	5 June/ 12:00pm/ AF 0984/ 12:50pm	5 June/ 10:10pm/ AF 0984/ 12:50pm	5 June/ 10:10pm/ AF 0984/ 12:50pm	5 June/ 10:10pm/ AF 0984/ 12:50pm		N/A			27200030						English	Subman P. Orde, #27, TX	John Conyn	Kay Bailey Hutchison
	Albans	AF 1832	19 May/ 12:20pm	5 June/ 5:45am/ AF 0984/ 12:50pm	5 June/ 10:10pm/ AF 0984/ 12:50pm	5 June/ 10:10pm/ AF 0984/ 12:50pm	5 June/ 10:10pm/ AF 0984/ 12:50pm					1202014						English, Arabic, French, Spanish, Swedish	Chris Van Hoesen, #8, MD	Barbara A. Waksfeld	Benjamin A. Cardin
	Albans	AF 1832	19 May/ 8:25pm	10 June/ 1:10pm/ AF 0984/ 12:50pm	10 June/ 7:05am/ AF 0984/ 12:50pm	10 June/ 7:05am/ AF 0984/ 12:50pm	10 June/ 7:05am/ AF 0984/ 12:50pm					22002014						English, Thai	Barbara Lee, #1, CA	Diane Feinstoh	Barbara Borer

\* The country code for Greece is 30  
\* Leave with Katcherry (U.S.), Madrid, Mexico (Europe)

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(b)(6)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER  
DATE/CASE ID: 17 NOV 2011 201004163

As of 5/10/10

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**From:** Davison, Kees C  
**To:** Mendel, Teresa S; Richter, Kim B  
**CC:** Houndoumadi, Ioanna G  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Movement  
**Sent:** 5/17/2010 2:54:19 AM

I have the manifests for the various cargo ships departing Athens for Gaza. There are no passengers, only crew members on the manifest. I can send the manifests to you but I don't see for what benefit, as the crews are all foreign.

We'll keep our ears open about the possibility of passengers joining the flotilla. I realize that the idea was for 600 passengers to accompany the supplies.

Kees

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Mendel, Teresa S  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2010 6:41 PM  
**To:** Davison, Kees C; Hanrahan, Richard F; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G  
**Subject:** FW: Free Gaza Movement

All,

Yesterday we were informed that the Free Gaza movement would be attempting to sail into the Gaza, again. Could you please work with any contacts you have to see if we might obtain the manifest for these boats. Today I was informed that there may be additional boats leaving out of Nicosia and Athens.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Best,

Teresa

## May 2010 sailing

The Free Gaza Movement and the Humanitarian Relief Foundation are partnering to send multiple ships to the Gaza Strip in May 2010. Under the coordination of the Free Gaza Movement, numerous human rights organizations, including the Turkish Relief Foundation (IHH), the Perdana Global Peace Organization from Malaysia, the European Campaign to End the Siege of Gaza, and the Swedish and Greek Boat to Gaza initiatives will send three cargo ships loaded with reconstruction, medical and educational supplies. Multiple passenger boats

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Printed By: Mendel, Teresa S

Page 1 of 2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER  
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with over 600 people on board will accompany the cargo ships. These passengers include members of Parliament from around the world, U.N., human rights and trade union activists, as well as journalists who will document the largest coordinated effort to directly confront Israel's blockade of Gaza and take in basic supplies. These include the MV Rachel Corrie.<sup>[33][34]</sup> In response to the plans, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman said: "These people are not supporting the Palestinians and they are not even supporting humanitarian causes. They are engaged in only one thing, and that is to create provocations and to collaborate with Hamas propaganda."<sup>[34]</sup>

---

**From:** Richter, Kim B  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2010 11:30 AM  
**To:** Mendel, Teresa S  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza

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**From:** Mendel, Teresa S  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2010 10:49 AM  
**To:** Richter, Kim B  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza

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---

**From:** Richter, Kim B  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2010 10:30 AM  
**To:** Mendel, Teresa S  
**Subject:** Free Gaza

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Thanks

*Kim Richter*  
CA/OCS/ACS/NESCA  
(202) 647-8308  
Bahrain, Bhutan, Egypt, India, Israel, West Bank, Gaza, Nepal,  
Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Maldives

[richterkb@state.gov](mailto:richterkb@state.gov)

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013  
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From: Parra, Yolanda A  
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 3:06 AM  
To: Youssef, Ann M; Osman, Amany A; Perry, Mark D  
Cc: Andrawes, Narguis T; Abdelwahab, Mohamed H; Richter, Kim B  
Subject: RE: Free Gaza Date Approaching Fast

B5

Categories: Working  
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
SensitivityCode: Sensitive Privacy Act

Ann – thanks for the website. I found this article which was posted only a few days ago.

We need to be prepared that they may divert the ships to Egypt.

## First Ship Sets Sail for Gaza

By Free Gaza Movement |

May 14, 2010

Israel's Intimidation Tactics Won't Stop Us

First Ship Sets Sail for Gaza!

London – 14 May 2010 – At 22:45 local time tonight, the MV Rachel Corrie, a 1200-ton cargo ship, part of the eight-vessel Freedom Flotilla, set sail from Ireland on its way to the Mediterranean Sea. There, ships from Turkey and Greece will join her, then sail to Gaza.

This past week reports from Israel have indicated that the Israeli authorities will not allow the Freedom Flotilla to reach Gaza with its cargo of much-needed reconstruction material, medical equipment, and school supplies. According to Israeli news sources, clear orders have been issued to prevent the ships from reaching Gaza, even if this necessitates military violence.

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The Free Gaza Movement, which has launched eight other sea missions to Gaza, confirms that Israel has tried these kinds of threats and intimidation tactics before in order to try to stop the missions before they start. "They have not deterred us before and will not deter us now," said one of the organizers.

Ship to Gaza -- Sweden, a Freedom Flotilla coalition partner, together with parliamentarian Mehmet Kaplan (Green Party) yesterday asked for an audience with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, Carl Bildt, to discuss what measures the Swedish government and the European Union will take to protect the Freedom Flotilla's peaceful, humanitarian voyage. Earlier this week during a meeting with the European Campaign to End the Siege on Gaza -- another coalition partner, Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan expressed his support for "breaking the oppressive siege on the Gaza Strip...which is at the top of Turkey's list of priorities."

Coalition partners, Ship to Gaza -- Greece and the Turkish relief organization IHH, stressed that the ships, passengers, and cargo will be checked at each port of departure, making it clear that we constitute no security threat to Israel.

Israel's threats to attack unarmed civilians aboard vessels carrying reconstruction aid are outrageous and indicative of the cruel and violent nature of Israel's policies towards Gaza. The Freedom Flotilla is acting in line with universal principals of human rights and justice in defying a blockade identified as illegal by the UN and other humanitarian organizations. Palestinians in Gaza have a right to the thousands of basic supplies that Israel bans from entering, including cement and schoolbooks, as well as a right to access the outside world. The Freedom Flotilla coalition calls on all signatories to the Fourth Geneva Conventions to pressure Israel to adhere to its obligations under international humanitarian law, to end the lethal blockade on Gaza, and to refrain from attacking this peaceful convoy.

---

The Freedom Flotilla Coalition is comprised of: Free Gaza Movement (FG), European Campaign to End the Siege of Gaza (ECESG), İnsani Yardım Vakfı (IHH), Ship to Gaza Greece, Ship to Gaza Sweden, and the International Committee to Lift the Siege on Gaza, with hundreds of groups and organizations around the world supporting the effort.

[www.freegaza.org](http://www.freegaza.org) [www.savegaza.eu](http://www.savegaza.eu) [www.ihh.org.tr](http://www.ihh.org.tr)

[www.shiptogaza.gr](http://www.shiptogaza.gr) [www.shiptogaza.se](http://www.shiptogaza.se)

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Category: Press Releases

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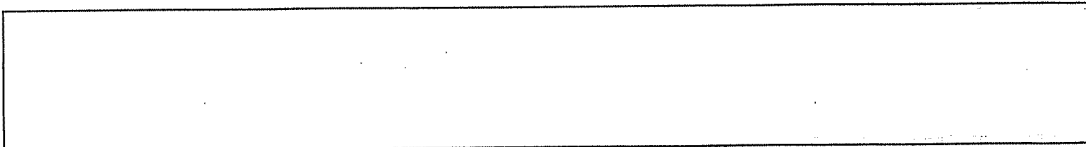
**From:** Youssef, Ann M  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 19, 2010 9:45 AM  
**To:** Osman, Amany A; Perry, Mark D; Parra, Yolanda A  
**Cc:** Andrawes, Narguis T; Abdelwahab, Mohamed H  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Date Approaching Fast

I was searching online for any news about them, and actually they have their own website <http://gazafreedommarch.org/cms/en/Home.aspx>. if you go to this page [http://gazafreedommarch.org/cms/en/News/View/09-12-21/Call the Egyptian government for the Gaza Freedom March.aspx](http://gazafreedommarch.org/cms/en/News/View/09-12-21/Call_the_Egyptian_government_for_the_Gaza_Freedom_March.aspx), you can find the instructions they have for volunteers who want to join the group, and how to contact the Egyptian Authorities for clearances.

Thanks,  
Ann

---

**From:** Osman, Amany A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 19, 2010 9:27 AM  
**To:** Perry, Mark D; Parra, Yolanda A  
**Cc:** Youssef, Ann M; Andrawes, Narguis T; Abdelwahab, Mohamed H  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Date Approaching Fast



B5

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**From:** Perry, Mark D  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2010 4:06 PM  
**To:** Parra, Yolanda A; Osman, Amany A  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Date Approaching Fast

What do we need to do to prepare?

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StateDept0586

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**From:** Parra, Yolanda A  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2010 4:05 PM  
**To:** Perry, Mark D; Osman, Amany A  
**Subject:** FW: Free Gaza Date Approaching Fast

Please see below...

Sensitive Privacy Act

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2010 3:52 PM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desilee A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elsa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A  
**Subject:** Free Gaza Date Approaching Fast

All - I have updated the distro list of concerned posts and offices for the upcoming Free Gaza flotilla. We are now only 6-7 days from the anticipated arrival of the first boats within Israeli and Gazan waters. As you gather new information, please share with this list so that we are ready for this as it develops.

Wes

*Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.*  
Desk Officer - NEA/IPA  
Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs  
Phone (202) 647-2647  
Fax (202) 736-4461

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014

Mendel, Teresa S

B6

B

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 19, 2010 2:18 PM  
**To:** Richter, Kim B  
**Cc:** Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S  
**Subject:** FW: Constituent Travel/Contact Information, Greece/Gaza Travel  
**Attachments:** FPM\_flotilla\_passenger\_list (1).xls

Kim - This was passed from the Hill to Emb. Tel Aviv and has the names of several Amcits planning on joining the Free Gaza flotilla. This info may be of use to several of our other posts, so I am passing to CA.  
Wes

---

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 19, 2010 2:14 PM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Subject:** Fw: Constituent Travel/Contact Information, Greece/Gaza Travel

Cannot read on bb.

---

**From:** Sievers, Marc J  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Cc:** Chere, John E  
**Sent:** Wed May 19 14:10:20 2010  
**Subject:** Fw: Constituent Travel/Contact Information, Greece/Gaza Travel

FYI.

---

**From:** Hill Liaison  
**To:** McKeever, Matthew X; Frowick, George H; Parker, Andrew C; Sievers, Marc J  
**Sent:** Wed May 19 20:53:26 2010  
**Subject:** FW: Constituent Travel/Contact Information, Greece/Gaza Travel

Forwarding at request of Rep. Barbara Lee's office, information about U.S. citizens participating in a boat trip from Greece directly to the Gaza Strip.

John

John A. Ritchie  
Consular Officer

U.S. Department of State  
Congressional Liaison Office  
189 Russell Building  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Tel: (202) 228-1605  
FAX: (202) 224-1400  
[Hill-Liaison@state.gov](mailto:Hill-Liaison@state.gov)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER  
DATE/CASE ID: 17 NOV 2011 201004163

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StateDept0588

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From: Exner, Scott [mailto:scott.exner@mail.house.gov]  
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 1:38 PM  
To: Hill Liaison  
Cc: Riggs, Lauren  
Subject: Constituent Travel/Contact Information, Greece/Gaza Travel

Hello,

Last week I spoke with John Richie in the Senate Liaison's office regarding two constituents of Congresswoman Lee's office who will be traveling as part of an international delegation attempting to enter Gaza via boat from Greece with humanitarian supplies in the coming week(s). Similar versions of this trip were blocked by Israeli naval forces, including the arrest of American citizens in the past. Given the sensitive nature of this trip, and the security concerns therein, Mr. Richie mentioned it would be appropriate, on top of registering with the travel.gov website, for the Hill Liaison's office to pass along traveler information to the relevant regional embassies.

The constituents of Congresswoman Lee that will be travelling include

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

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(b)(6)

(b)(6)

[Redacted] will not be participating in the trip from Greece to Gaza (she will remain in Greece) and can serve as a point of contact in case of emergencies or for any other reasons. Gene and Jan will be staying in Athens at one of two apartments: [Redacted] The contact person is [Redacted] (mobile). Specific contact cell phone numbers in Greece will be provided to our office once they are obtained in-country, which I can pass along at that time.

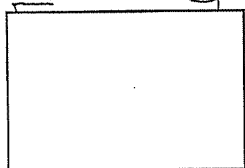
(b)(6)

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(b)(6)

Attached you will find a document with pertinent American citizen traveler information including passport number, emergency contact phone number, home address, and Congressional Representation as provided by [Redacted] is not included on this spreadsheet, which I believe includes several individuals participating in the boat trip to Gaza. [Redacted] information is as follows:

(b)(6)



(b)(6)

Passport # (TBD), this was not received prior to their departure, but I will request if I hear from them on the ground in Greece.

Birthdate: 6/14/44

The dates of travel for [Redacted] are as follows:

- Depart for Greece May 18, 2010
- Depart from Greece via boat May 21
- Arrive in Gaza May 27

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- Depart from Greece for United States May 30 or June 1

Please confirm receipt of this e-mail. Secondly, let me know if there is any other information you need or resources you recommend I pass along to Congresswoman Lee's constituents.

Thank you for your assistance. Best,

<<FPM\_flotilla\_passenger\_list (1).xls>>

Scott Exner

Legislative Assistant

The Honorable Barbara Lee (CA 9th)

2444 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington D.C. 20515

Tel# (202) 225-2661

Fax# (202) 225 9817

<http://lee.house.gov/>

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015

B

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From: Davison, Kees C  
To: Richter, Kim B; Mendel, Teresa S  
CC: Plott, Susan M; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Zuckerman, Eve; Towry, Debra J; Lewis, Glenn K; Parra, Yolanda A; Perry, Mark D  
Subject: Free Gaza Flotilla  
Sent: 5/20/2010 6:55:33 AM  
Teresa, Kim,

I spoke to two of the American members of Free Gaza group which will be leaving Athens soon, former Ambassador Ed Peck and [redacted] I initiated the call on Peck's US cell phone, and then continued it on a local landline at the apartment they are staying at [redacted]

(b)(6)  
(b)(6) B6  
(b)(6)

[redacted] told me that he doubted that they would set sail before Sunday or Monday (23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>), and was expecting to be engaged by the Israeli Navy on May 27<sup>th</sup> or May 28<sup>th</sup>.

(b)(6)

While there are other Americans in Athens with the group, only the five mentioned on the spreadsheet from Congresswoman Lee's office would be sailing. Peck, [redacted]

(b)(6)

Kees Davison  
ACS Athens

<http://paltelegraph.com/world/us/6096-us-delegation-headed-for-gaza-with-international-aid-flotilla>

SBU  
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016

Mendel, Teresa S

RELEASED IN PART

B

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 20, 2010 8:53 AM  
**To:** Sindle, James M; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Slevers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A  
**Subject:** FW: Free Gaza Flotilla

B6

All - Here is more info from Athens that may be of interest to the broader group.

I spoke to two of the American members of Free Gaza group which will be leaving Athens soon. [former Ambassador Ed Peck and [redacted] (b)(6) (b)(6) B6  
 [redacted] told me that he doubted that they would set sail before Sunday or Monday (23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>), and was expecting to be engaged by the Israeli Navy on May 27<sup>th</sup> or May 28<sup>th</sup>. (b)(6)

Kees Davison  
ACS Athens

<http://paltelegraph.com/world/us/6096-us-delegation-headed-for-gaza-with-international-aid-flotilla>

SBU  
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017



# ISRAEL MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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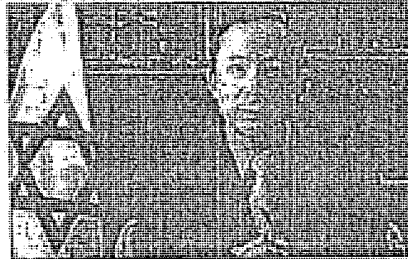
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MFA newsletter



## MFA Spokesman on Gaza flotilla

24 May 2010  
 Ships forcing their way into Gaza will do nothing to aid the people there. Existing land crossings are more than capable of meeting their needs.



MFA Spokesman Yigal Palmor

- E-mail to a friend
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- Increased humanitarian aid to Gaza after IDF operation

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Ships forcing their way into Gaza will do nothing to aid the people there. Existing land crossings are more than capable of meeting their needs. International aid organizations and the private sector of Gaza ensure that all the necessary food, medicine and clothing are provided to the Strip via Israel.

In a typical week, 15,000 tons of supplies enter Gaza. Truckloads of meat, poultry, fish, dairy products, fruits, vegetables, milk powder, baby food, wheat and other staples arrive in Gaza on a daily basis. Building materials are also shipped in, when monitored by International organization so as not to be commandeered by Hamas for the fortification of bunkers.

Since the ceasefire in January 2009, well over a million tons of humanitarian supplies entered Gaza from Israel - that is almost a ton of aid for each man, woman and child in the Strip.

The land crossings remain the most efficient system to transfer goods to Gaza.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER  
 DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012 201004163

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and the flotilla organizers are well aware of this fact. The organizers also know that since December 2008, their ships have been denied permission to land.

Israel has invited the organizers of the flotilla to use the land crossings, in the same manner as all the reputable international organizations.

However, they are less interested in bringing in aid than in promoting their radical agenda, playing into the hands of Hamas provocations. While they have wrapped themselves in a humanitarian cloak, they are engaging in political propaganda and not in pro-Palestinian aid.

If the organizers were truly interested in providing humanitarian aid - as opposed to engaging in publicity stunts - they would use the proper channels to ensure delivery of any supplies.

[REDACTED]

[Feedback](#)

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[Hebrew](#)

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[REDACTED]

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018

B

Mendel, Teresa S

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Mendel, Teresa S  
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 8:11 AM  
To: Miller, Andrew T  
Subject: FW: IHH Flotilla

Free Gaza Flotilla left Turkey with a total of 10 Amcits passengers, to include [former Ambassador Ed Peck] and 9 other Amcits. (b)(6)

Teresa

-----Original Message-----

From: Reisser, Wesley J  
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 8:07 AM  
To: Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manring, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)  
Subject: FW: IHH Flotilla

Latest update on Free Gaza. The ships in Turkey have departed with former-Amb. Ed Peck and 9 other Amcits (please make sure relevant folks in CA, NEA, Tel Aviv and Cairo have the full list of names). Rendezvous with the ships from Greece could happen tomorrow. Please keep all the relevant offices above in the loop as this fluid situation develops!

Thanks,  
Wes

Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.  
Desk Officer - NEA/IPA  
Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs  
Phone (202) 647-2647  
Fax (202) 736-4461

This message is UNCLASSIFIED/SBU according to the definitions provided by E.O. 12958.

----- Original Message -----

From: Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"  
To: Baily, Jess L; Marsh, Denise M; Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A  
Cc: Riley, Robert J; Goldberger, Thomas H  
Sent: Sat May 22 14:09:42 2010  
Subject: RE: IHH Flotilla

I'll ask AMCONSUL Istanbul (Win Dayton, Sal Amodeo) to check with IHH headquarters there over coming days on the flotilla's progress. From now on much of our information will likely come from the press as IHH is all about a media-worthy confrontation at sea with the Israel Defense Force (IDF). Embassy Tel Aviv may be able to get reports from the IDF.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 28 FEB 2012 201004163

1  
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StateDept0595

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-----Original Message-----

From: Baily, Jess L  
Sent: Saturday, May 22, 2010 8:10 PM  
To: Marsh, Denise M; Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A  
Cc: Riley, Robert J; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Goldberger, Thomas H  
Subject: Re: IHH Flotilla

Looping in jerry howard as well. Denise has referred ops to cable on subject and to folks in nea as well. If memory serves me correctly, they will rendez-vous with other ships in cyprus on 25th. New element here is [amb peck.] (b)(6)

(Including tom goldberger from ipa here.). Jess

----- Original Message -----

From: Marsh, Denise M  
To: Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A  
Cc: Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J  
Sent: Sat May 22 12:38:29 2010  
Subject: IHH Flotilla

Ops just called to report that the ships left Istanbul today with 10 AMCITS, to include [former U.S. Amb Ed Peck]. They asked for further update. They've alerted NEA folks. Anything (b)(6) more on this from post's end?

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Richter, Kim B

From: Reisser, Wesley J  
 Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 10:12 AM  
 To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)  
 Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatklewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereith, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carollee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L  
 Subject: RE: IHH Flotilla

Here is another news item of interest. The GOI has built a temporary detention facility at Ashdod Port to process passengers if the boats are brought in and the passengers detained. They are planning to deport all foreign passengers, which would repeat what was done with the last Free Gaza mission.

#### Flotilla Welcome

Ashdod Port: Mass Detention Facility Built Ma'ariv (p. 5) by Avi Ashkenazi -- Preparations were completed yesterday at Ashdod Port to block the flotilla for breaking the siege on Gaza. Among other things, the police, the GSS and the Interior Ministry's Oz unit set up a detention and interrogation facility capable of handling hundreds of people.

The overall responsibility for the operation has been assigned to the Navy, which will be assisted by several security and police agencies. For example, it was decided that SWAT teams would assist Naval Commando forces in case it is necessary to take over the ships. As part of the work, a fenced-off encampment was set up at Ashdod Port. "Even the port workers were not given authorization to approach the compound. They simply took Pier 1 and isolated it from the port," one of the workers said.

A police source said that preparations were being made at the port to provide the passengers with basic conditions, food, drink and medical treatment, along with the police preparations. "It is believed that the ships will be stopped on the border of Israel's territorial waters," the source said, "we have the experience and operational knowledge necessary to stop them and transfer the passengers to Ashdod Port."

It was further decided that every passenger removed from the ship would be examined by a police sapper. Every Israeli citizen on board will be arrested and questioned by the police, Palestinian citizens will be questioned by the police and GSS, and foreign nationals and diplomats will be handed over to the Oz unit for handling and will be expelled to their countries of origin.

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020

Mendel, Teresa S

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Reisser, Wesley J  
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 10:26 AM  
To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Hackworth, Jason K  
Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manring, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremlah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L  
Subject: Irish Free Gaza Boat

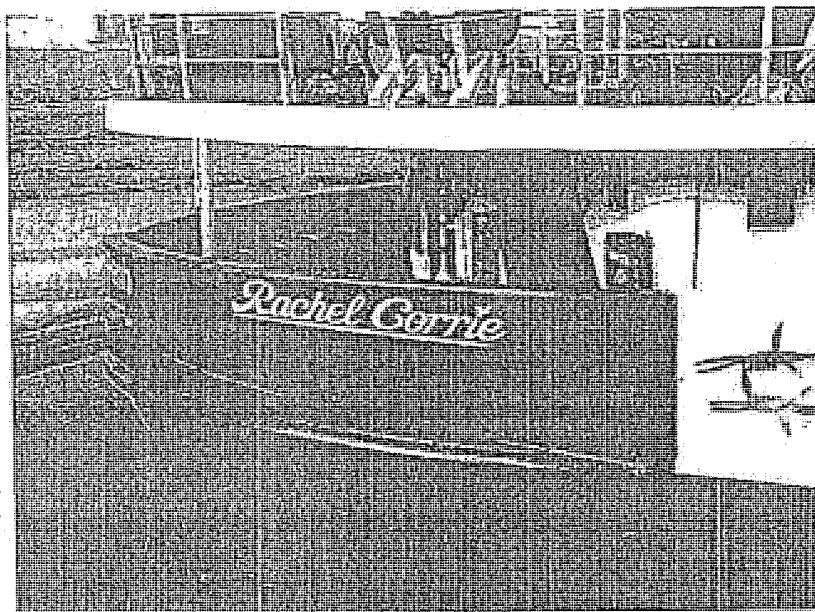
More from the Ireland Desk.

**SEVERAL PROMINENT IRISH PARTICIPANTS ON SHIPS TO GAZA**

By Fintan Lane, IPSC Media Officer:

The Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign (IPSC) wishes to express its solidarity with the 'Freedom Flotilla', consisting of nine ships, that is currently assembling in the Mediterranean Sea prior to attempting to break the Israeli blockade of Gaza in the final week of May. Among the ships heading towards Gaza is the 1,200 tonne Irish cargo ship, the MV Rachel Corrie, which is owned by the Free Gaza Movement. The ship is carrying a cargo of cement and other vital reconstruction materials for the people of Gaza.

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*MV Rachel Corrie*

In addition to the involvement of the MV Rachel Corrie, a number of Irish politicians and human rights activists will be participating in the flotilla as crew and as passengers. As of Friday, 21 May, the expected Irish participants in the flotilla are Denis Halliday (Dublin), Caoimhe Butterly (Dublin/Cork), Chris Andrews TD (Dublin), Dr Fintan Lane (Cork/Dublin), Mairead Maguire (Belfast), Aengus Ó Snodaigh TD (Dublin), Senator Mark Daly (Kerry), and Fiachra Ó Luain (Donegal). The Irish crew members on the MV Rachel Corrie are Derek Graham (Mayo), Jenny Graham (Mayo) and Shane Dillon (Dublin). For further biographical information on the Irish participants, please go to the end of this press release. The participants include members of the Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign and the Free Gaza Movement.

The IPSC will attempt to provide up-to-date information on the flotilla as it proceeds towards Gaza, although, obviously, there may be times when information is difficult to obtain while the ships are at sea. Check the website [www.freegaza.org](http://www.freegaza.org) which will be updated regularly.

As yet, it is impossible to judge how the Israeli navy and military will behave towards the Freedom Flotilla as it nears Gaza. Threats have been issued by the Israeli Department of Defence, which claims it intends to stop the flotilla at all costs. The organisers and participants in the flotilla have opted to ignore this intimidation and are determined to bring their cargo to Gaza.

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Speaking on behalf of the Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Dr Fintan Lane (IPSC Media Officer and a 'Freedom Flotilla' participant) said: "The siege of Gaza has created a humanitarian and political crisis that cannot be ignored. We are determined to break Israel's blockade and will not be intimidated. The people of Gaza have a right to access to the outside world and the right to determine their own future."

He continued: "The siege of Gaza is a collective punishment against the Palestinian people because they dared to resist Israeli apartheid rule. The suffering that Israel is causing is an outrage and the international community must stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people. Direct action is entirely appropriate and we intend to make it clear that we stand with the Palestinian resistance to oppression and apartheid. We are not neutral in this struggle for human rights and self-determination."

### THE IRISH PARTICIPANTS

**Caoimhe Butterly** is a Dublin-born Irish human rights activist, who has worked with AIDS victims in Zimbabwe, the homeless in New York, and with Zapatistas in Mexico as well as more recently in the Middle East and Haiti. In 2002, during an Israeli attack in Jenin, she was shot by an Israeli soldier. She spent 16 days inside the compound where Yasser Arafat was besieged in Ramallah. She was described by Time magazine as one of their Europeans of the Year in 2003. Butterly is a pacifist who is a member of the International Solidarity Movement (ISM), an organization that seeks non-violent alternatives to armed intifada by mobilizing international civil society. She is a coordinator with the Free Gaza Movement and Delegation leader on the Freedom Flotilla.

**Denis Halliday** was born in Dublin in 1941 and educated at Trinity College Dublin. He is a former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations. Secretary-General Kofi Annan appointed him to the post of United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Iraq as of 1 September 1997, at the Assistant Secretary-General level, and he served as such until the end of September 1998. He resigned from the post in Iraq and from the United Nations as a whole effective 31 October 1998 after serving the organisation since mid 1964 - some 34 years. He has been a strong opponent of the US/UK-led war in Iraq.

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**Mairead Maguire**, Nobel peace prize laureate, was co-founder of the Community of Peace People for a peaceful resolution of the Northern Ireland conflict. She has been to Palestine several times defending the human rights. In April 2007, she was wounded by the Israeli army while non-violently protesting with Palestinians against the apartheid wall in the village of Bil'in. This will be her third trip to Gaza on board one of the Free Gaza boats.

**Derek Graham** is from Ballina in County Mayo. He has been a qualified electrician for 20 years. He was a member of the reserve defence forces in Ireland for 21 years and was the first member of the reserves to make the Army sailing team. He has been sailing all of his life and is a crew member on the MV Rachel Corrie. He has participated in many previous Free Gaza boat trips to Gaza and has been on four of the five voyages that landed in Gaza. He is married to Jenny, who is also on the MV Rachel Corrie.

**Jenny Graham** is from County Mayo and is a member of the Free Gaza Movement. She has participated in previous boat trips to Gaza and is a member of the crew of the MV Rachel Corrie. She is married to Derek Graham.

**Shane Dillon** is a Dublin-based Irish seafarer who has served as Chief Officer on Irish and British merchant ships. He has sailed on numerous leisure craft on transatlantic trips and in European waters. He is part of the crew of the Freedom Flotilla.

**Fintan Lane** is a writer and historian. He is a member of the National Committee of the Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign. Originally from Cork, he now lives in Chapelizod in Dublin. He graduated with a PhD in history from University College, Cork and is the author/editor of seven books on modern Irish history; he has also contributed many articles and reviews to academic history journals. He was the Editor of Saothar, the scholarly journal of Irish labour history; for several years.

**Senator Mark Daly** is a Fianna Fáil member of Senead Eireann from County Kerry. He was elected as one of the youngest members of the 23rd Senate in the 2007 election and has been active in community affairs and local politics since college. He was born in Kerry in 1973 and holds a Diploma in Property Valuation from Dublin Institute of Technology and a B.Sc. in Management from Greenwich University, London.

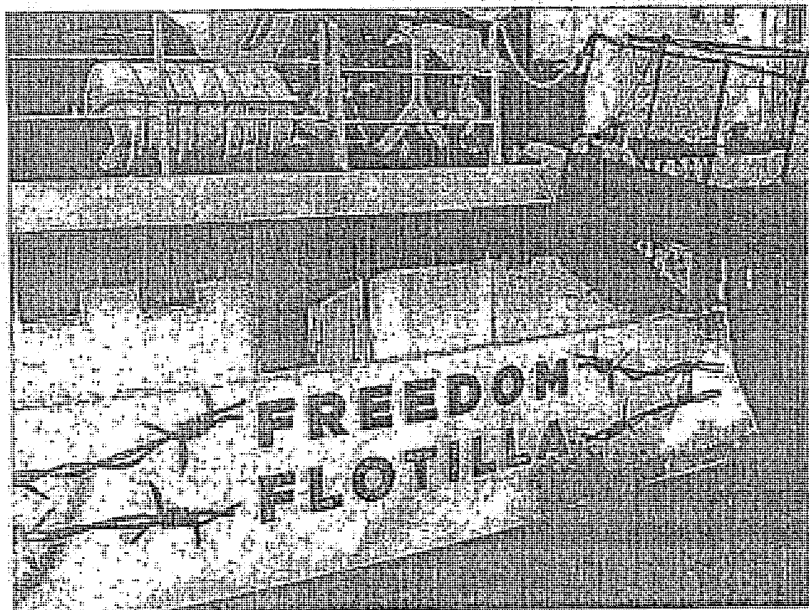
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**Chris Andrews TD** is an Irish Fianna Fáil politician. He is currently a Teachta Dála (TD) for the Dublin South East constituency. He was first elected to the Dáil at the 2007 general election.

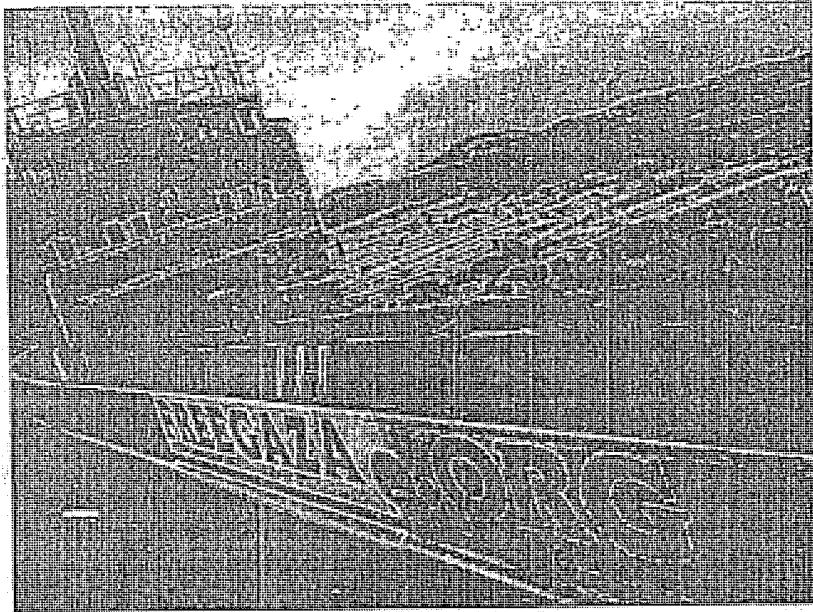
**Aengus Ó Snodaigh TD** is a native Irish speaker who was born in Dublin in 1964. Aengus is married to Aisling and has three children. He was first elected in 2002 to the Dáil (Irish parliament) and re-elected in 2007. He is Sinn Féin's spokesperson on social and family affairs, housing, justice and international affairs. He travelled by boat in November 2008 to Gaza which was (and still is) under siege by Israel.

**Fiachra Ó Luain** is from County Donegal. He is an Irish peace activist and was an independent candidate in the North-West constituency in the 2009 European elections. He was compelled to become a candidate upon watching the massacres of Israel's 'Operation Cast Lead'. He is a crew member on the Freedom Flotilla.



MV Rachel Corrie

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MV Rachel Corrie

[The following text is extremely faint and illegible, appearing as a series of horizontal lines and scattered characters.]

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022

Mendel, Teresa S

From: Hanrahan, Richard F  
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 2:58 PM  
To: Mendel, Teresa S; Netos, Eleftherios E  
Cc: 'Nan Stewart'  
Subject: FW: Important: Please provide names of U.S. citizens planning to travel to Gaza

RELEASED IN PART  
B6

B

FYI

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 8:12 PM  
To: Hanrahan, Richard F  
Cc: [redacted]  
Subject: RE: Important: Please provide names of U.S. citizens planning to travel to Gaza

B6

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Dear Mr. Hanrahan,

Thank you for contacting us again, and following up on our mission. Our ships will be leaving from multiple locations on this voyage. At this time we are not releasing information regarding which ships are leaving from which locations. I'm sure you can understand our caution. If you wish, you can sign up for real time updates about the voyage at <http://witnessgaza.com/>.

Rest assured, we are asking U.S. participants to fill out a Privacy Act waiver, so as to make it easier for us to get information from the U.S. government, should Israel violently respond to our peaceful mission. As we've both promised and done before - we will release a full list of all participants at the time of our actual departure. We will contact all appropriate embassies and governments, and provide them with a list of their nationals sailing with us. We are encouraging all participants to independently contact their embassies/governments as well.

I'd like to encourage you again to contact your counterparts in Israel, and demand that they respect international law and refrain from using violence against an unarmed flotilla carrying civilian passengers and humanitarian aid.

In March 2009, the United States pledged \$900,000,000 USD toward reconstruction in Gaza. However, in the 14 months since this pledge no aid has actually been delivered and the Palestinians of Gaza are still living in rubble.

This is unacceptable. Israel's hermetic closure policy constitutes collective punishment of an occupied civilian population, an act strictly prohibited under Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. As a signatory to the Geneva Conventions, the United States has an obligation to ensure that Israel respect international humanitarian law.

Given the sustained failure of the international community to enforce its own laws and protect the people of Gaza, we strongly believe that we all have a moral obligation to directly intervene to uphold international principles.

Warmest Regards,

[redacted]  
Free Gaza Movement

(b)(6)

cc: [redacted]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER  
DATE/CASE ID: 17 NOV 2011 201004163

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(b)(6)

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--- On Mon, 5/24/10, Hanrahan, Richard F <HanrahanRF@state.gov> wrote:

B6

From: Hanrahan, Richard F <HanrahanRF@state.gov>

Subject: RE: Important: Please provide names of U.S. citizens planning to travel to Gaza

To: [REDACTED]

Date: Monday, May 24, 2010, 11:44 AM

(b)(6)

Dear [REDACTED]

(b)(6)

Is it still the case that boats from the Free Gaza movement will not be departing from Cyprus this year?

Were you able to find the Privacy Act Waivers?

Thanks,

Richard Hanrahan

U.S. Consul

U.S. Embassy

Nicosia, Cyprus

---

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2010 2:55 PM

To: Hanrahan, Richard F

Subject: RE: Important: Please provide names of U.S. citizens planning to travel to Gaza

(b)(6)

Dear Mr. Hanrahan,

Thank you very much for following up with us on this. It is greatly appreciated. We are not leaving this week, but prior to our departure we will be in touch with this information. We will pass along your recommendation regarding Privacy Act waivers as well, and encourage all American passengers to fill out and sign one.

We would also like to encourage you to follow up with your Israeli government counterparts and urge them to comply with international law and standards regarding our mission to Gaza.

Warmest Regards,

[REDACTED]

(b)(6)

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Free Gaza Movement

-- On Thu, 5/13/10, Hanrahan, Richard F <HanrahanRF@state.gov> wrote:

From: Hanrahan, Richard F <HanrahanRF@state.gov>  
Subject: RE: Important: Please provide names of U.S. citizens planning to travel to Gaza  
To: [redacted]  
Date: Thursday, May 13, 2010, 6:58 AM

(b)(6) B6

Dear [redacted]

(b)(6)

According to recent press reports Free Gaza ships may again attempt to travel to Gaza from Cyprus. I would be very grateful if you would provide me a list with the names and dates of birth of any passengers who are U.S. citizens, and encourage them to sign Privacy Act waivers.

Sincerely,

Richard Hanrahan

U.S. Consul

U.S. Embassy

Nicosia, Cyprus

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Sunday, April 04, 2010 7:32 PM  
To: Hanrahan, Richard F  
Subject: Re: Important: Please provide names of U.S. citizens planning to travel to Gaza

(b)(6)

Dear Mr. Hanrahan,

[redacted] U.S. co-Coordinator for the Free Gaza Movement, forwarded me your request for information on U.S. participants in our next mission to Gaza. I'm afraid that this information is not available at this time. However, rest assured, as in previous missions we will provide complete information on all ships' crew and passengers to each of their governments prior to sailing. Thank you for your interest, as well as for your advice that U.S. citizens sign a Privacy Act waiver. We will pass along that advice to all American passengers.

(b)(6)

If you have any other questions, concerns, or advice, please do not hesitate to contact us. As Israel's chief political and military ally, we would also encourage U.S. government officials to be in touch with your

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counterparts in Israel, and to directly express your concerns regarding continuing Israeli violations of international law and the danger these violations pose to the Palestinian people, as well as to U.S. citizens participating in our missions to Gaza.

Warmest Regards,

[redacted]  
Free Gaza Movement

(b)(6)

---

Subject: Please provide names of U.S. citizens planning to travel to Gaza

Date: Sun, 4 Apr 2010 16:04:21 +0300

From: HanrahanRF@state.gov

To: [redacted]

(b)(6)

Dear [redacted]

(b)(6)

I understand from press reports that ships from the Free Gaza organization may again attempt to sail to Gaza in late April or early May.

I would be grateful if you would provide the names and contact information for any U.S. citizens planning to travel on the boats. It may be advisable for any U.S. citizen who intends to travel to Gaza to execute a Privacy Act waiver ahead of time. This will help us keep anxious relatives and others better informed of their condition.

I'm sure you are aware of the risks inherent in such a journey and I hope each potential passenger carefully considers them. I have included a link to the U.S. Department of State Travel Warning for Israel, The West Bank and Gaza: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/tw/tw\\_922.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_922.html), and note that the State Department strongly urges that American citizens refrain from all travel to the Gaza Strip

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Richard Hanrahan

U.S. Consul

U.S. Embassy

Nicosia, Cyprus

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The New Busy think 9 to 5 is a cute idea. Combine multiple calendars with Hotmail. Get busy.

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023

Mendel, Teresa S

RELEASED IN PART

B6

B

From: Hanrahan, Richard F  
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 2:59 PM  
To: Netos, Eleftherios E; Mendel, Teresa S  
Cc: Stewart, Nan E  
Subject: FW: Thank you for asking for the passenger list

FYI

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 6:45 PM  
To: Hanrahan, Richard F  
Subject: Re: Thank you for asking for the passenger list

B6

(b)(6)

We are not departing from Cyprus and we did find the form. Thank you very much. greta

On Mon, May 24, 2010 at 6:41 PM, Hanrahan, Richard F <HanrahanRF@state.gov> wrote:

Dear [redacted]

(b)(6)

Is it still the case that boats from the Free Gaza movement will not be departing from Cyprus this year?

Were you able to find the Privacy Act Waivers?

Thank You,

Richard Hanrahan

U.S. Consul

U.S. Embassy

Nicosia, Cyprus

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2010 2:21 PM  
To: Hanrahan, Richard F  
Subject: Re: Thank you for asking for the passenger list

(b)(6)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER  
DATE/CASE ID: 17 NOV 2011 201004163

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Dear Mr. Hanrahan: Thank you so much for your inquiry regarding sailing to Gaza at the end of May. We are not sailing from Cyprus but from many other ports in the Mediterranean.

Would you let me know where I can access the Privacy Act Waivers? Is it possible to download them from the State Department website? Thank you. Best regards [redacted] (b)(6)

On Thu, May 13, 2010 at 12:00 PM, Hanrahan, Richard F <HanrahanRF@state.gov> wrote:

Dear [redacted] (b)(6)

According to recent press reports Free Gaza ships may again attempt to travel to Gaza from Cyprus. I would be very grateful if you would provide me a list with the names and dates of birth of any passengers who are U.S. citizens, and encourage them to sign Privacy Act waivers.

Sincerely,

Richard Hanrahan

U.S. Consul

U.S. Embassy

Nicosia, Cyprus

---

From: [redacted] (b)(6)  
Sent: Sunday, April 04, 2010 7:44 PM  
To: Hanrahan, Richard F  
Subject: Thank you for asking for the passenger list

Dear Richard: I have just received your request about passengers who are going to go on the flotilla. I do have a couple of questions for you.

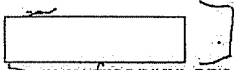
1. We are not leaving from Cyprus this time but from Greece, Turkey, Sweden and Ireland.
2. Do we still send the names to you or do we contact the U.S. Consulate/Embassy in the countries where the passengers embark?

Thank you for your concern. We'd like to also state that the only threat in the area is Israel's response to a human rights mission. We do hope you let them know that their brutal responses to American citizens will not

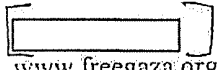
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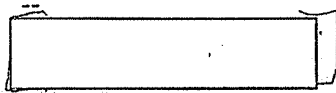
be tolerated.

  
[www.freegaza.org](http://www.freegaza.org)

(b)(6)

  
[www.freegaza.org](http://www.freegaza.org)

(b)(6)

  
[witnessgaza.com](http://witnessgaza.com)  
[www.freegaza.org](http://www.freegaza.org)  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/freegaza>

(b)(6)

3  
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Mendel, Teresa S

**RELEASED IN FULL**

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2010 8:32 AM  
**To:** Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)  
**Cc:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereith, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manring, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Allison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Hackworth, Jason K  
**Subject:** RE: IHH Flotilla article from Today's Zaman

All - We currently have confirmation now of 5 Amcits from Athens, perhaps 2 from Turkey and an unknown number on the boat from Ireland.

**From:** Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2010 3:01 AM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereith, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manring, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul)  
**Cc:** Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul)  
**Subject:** Flotilla Delayed - only 2 Amcits may join IHH passenger ship

Today at 9:30 am I spoke to IHH Administrative Board member Huseyin Oruc by phone. He is presently in Antalya where their passenger ship, the Mavi Marmara is docked. He told me:

- They will not depart Antalya to join the Free Gaza flotilla at the rendezvous point off of Cyprus for "about 2 days" since the rest of the flotilla is not yet ready to depart.
- There were NO/NO American Citizens on the Mavi Marmara while it sailed from Istanbul to Antalya. However, two Americans MAY board the ship when it eventually departs from Antalya. He did not know the names of the Americans, noting that another group that is planning to board the ship said two American may be among its participants.
- The IHH ship's passengers are presently staying in hotels in Antalya. More passengers are expected to arrive in Antalya in the next two days.

It appears that the participation of American Citizens may have been exaggerated or there was confusion over how many Amcits would be in the Flotilla as a whole vs. how many would be on the IHH ship.

I will monitor the situation for Amciti participation and estimated time of departure.

Stay tuned.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER  
 DATE/CASE ID: 17 NOV 2011 201004163

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Sal

*Salvatore A. Amodeo*

Deputy Political & Economic Section Chief/Senior Political Officer  
U.S. Consulate General Istanbul  
(90) 212-335-9389

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2  
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025

Richter, Kim B

RELEASED IN PART

**From:** Parker, Andrew C  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2010 10:15 AM  
**To:** Richter, Kim B; Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Schlereth, Frank G; Greene, Elisa; Sievers, Marc J; Burgess, Richard J; Rogan, Thomas G; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Levin, Jan  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza and the GOI

B6

I spoke this afternoon with MFA Consular Liaison [redacted] who had spent the day at the Port of Ashdod, where the GOI is preparing to receive up to 800 detainees. I conveyed our concern for the safety of civilians as expressed below. She said she would convey our concern to the Director General's office and also noted that this was a key point that MFA has been making with the Israeli Navy.

B6

Concerning the flotilla, she said there are lots of rumors circulating about plans and schedules, but she understood the vessels would not reach Cyprus before Friday and would most likely not reach offshore Gaza until Sunday.

Andy

---

**From:** Richter, Kim B  
**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2010 6:54 PM  
**To:** Greene, Elisa  
**Subject:** Free Gaza and the GOI

Has Embassy Tel Aviv been in touch with the GOI to make sure the Israelis don't take drastic action that would put lives and safety at risk? I'm sure you guys have – as this is not new to post.

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026

Richter, Kim B

RELEASED IN FULL

B

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2010 12:27 PM  
**To:** Richter, Kim B; Mendel, Teresa S  
**Subject:** FW: Flotilla Delayed - only 2 Amcits may join IHH passenger ship

Here's an idea. Maybe Athens can call to find out which boats. That way, if there is an incident involving a specific boat, we will know if there are Amcits on board!

---

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2010 8:48 AM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Subject:** RE: Flotilla Delayed - only 2 Amcits may join IHH passenger ship

Good. Perhaps they could call the cell phones of the AmCits?

---

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2010 8:46 AM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Cc:** Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Subject:** RE: Flotilla Delayed - only 2 Amcits may join IHH passenger ship

Athens is still trying to track down that info. They have the names of ships but not which ones the Amcits may board yet. The boats that may go are:  
BESIRE KAIKAVAN, OCEAN STAR, NOVOROSTYSK STAR, SHENANDOAH HIGHWAY, MAESTRO OCEAN, AND KYKLADES

---

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2010 8:37 AM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Subject:** RE: Flotilla Delayed - only 2 Amcits may join IHH passenger ship

Would be good to know in case there are incidents with some ships but not others.

---

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2010 8:35 AM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Cc:** Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Subject:** RE: Flotilla Delayed - only 2 Amcits may join IHH passenger ship

Here is the spreadsheet from Athens with the names of the 5. I'll check with CA to see if they have the ship names.

---

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2010 8:33 AM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Subject:** RE: Flotilla Delayed - only 2 Amcits may join IHH passenger ship

Can we find out names and ships of known Amcits?

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 28 FEB 2012 201004163

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**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2010 8:29 AM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Cc:** Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Subject:** RE: Flotilla Delayed - only 2 Amcits may join IHH passenger ship

We know [Peck] and four others are coming from Athens, but not on which ship from there.

(b)(6)

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2010 8:24 AM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Subject:** FW: Flotilla Delayed - only 2 Amcits may join IHH passenger ship

Do we know which ship Amcits are supposed to be on? e.g. [Peck]?

(b)(6)

**From:** Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2010 3:01 AM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul)  
**Cc:** Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul)  
**Subject:** Flotilla Delayed - only 2 Amcits may join IHH passenger ship

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- They will not depart Antalya to join the Free Gaza flotilla at the rendezvous point off of Cyprus for "about 2 days" since the rest of the flotilla is not yet ready to depart.
- There were NO/NO American Citizens on the Mavi Marmara while it sailed from Istanbul to Antalya. However, two Americans MAY board the ship when it eventually departs from Antalya. He did not know the names of the Americans, noting that another group that is planning to board the ship said two American may be among its participants.
- The IHH ship's passengers are presently staying in hotels in Antalya. More passengers are expected to arrive in Antalya in the next two days.

It appears that the participation of American Citizens may have been exaggerated or there was confusion over how many Amcits would be in the Flotilla as a whole vs. how many would be on the IHH ship.

I will monitor the situation for Amciti participation and estimated time of departure.

Stay tuned.

Sal

*Salvatore A. Amodeo*

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Deputy Political & Economic Section Chief/Senior Political Officer

U.S. Consulate General Istanbul

(90) 212-335-9389

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**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**To:** Richter, Kim B; Mendel, Teresa S; Parker, Andrew C  
**CC:** Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H;  
Rogan, Thomas G  
**Subject:** FW: SEVERAL PROMINENT IRISH PARTICIPANTS ON SHIPS TO GAZA  
**Sent:** 5/25/2010 12:38:50 PM

From the Ireland desk, they have followed up and believe there are no Amcits on the Rachel Corrie, which is currently en route.

---

**From:** Siler, Brian J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2010 9:36 AM  
**To:** Hackworth, Jason K; Duval, Jennifer L; Nystrom, Dwight D; Rendo, Christopher M; Hennessey-Niland, John  
**Cc:** Bates, Candace L  
**Subject:** RE: SEVERAL PROMINENT IRISH PARTICIPANTS ON SHIPS TO GAZA

I spoke by phone today with Sinn Fein parliamentarian Aengus O' Snodaigh about the possible presence of USC's (including persons with dual citizenship) on board the Irish ship in the flotilla, the "Rachel Corrie." Snodaigh said he believes there are no/no USC's on the "Rachel Corrie." However, he thinks at least one USC, reportedly a woman in her eighties who is alleged to be a Holocaust survivor, will be among those on one of the other ships in the flotilla. No further information about this supposed USC was available. While not hostile, Snodaigh was not relaxed about the call. I focused solely on our interest in the welfare of USC's who might find themselves in a difficult or dangerous situation. I asked him to advise the woman and any other USC's he might encounter within the flotilla group to register with U.S. consular authorities on Cyprus, which is where he said he (and presumably the "Rachel Corrie") now is. He said he would do so.

- Brian

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Printed By: Richter, Kim B  
Page 1 of 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER  
DATE/CASE ID: 18 NOV 2011 201004163

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028

**From:** Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)  
Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manring, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Reisser, Wesley J; Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A

**To:**

**Subject:** Today's Zaman online: Davutoglu: Gaza Blockade Must End

**Sent:** 5/26/2010 2:04:19 AM

**FYI**

**Davutoglu: Gaza Blockade Must End (Today's Zaman online)**  
Foreign Minister Davutoglu said Tuesday at a press conference at the two-day meeting of the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in Istanbul, "The blockade on Gaza must come to an end. This is and will be our policy."  
<http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/news-211204-gaza-blockade-must-end-says-davutoglu-at-un-meeting-in-istanbul.html>

Full article:

### **Gaza blockade must end, says Davutoğlu at UN meeting in İstanbul**

Foreign Minister Ahmet

Davutoğlu has said Israel should respect the fundamental and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and end the blockade on Gaza.

"Turkey does not want the current situation in Palestine that resembles a modern ghetto to continue and wants all practices that threaten humanitarian rights there to be stopped," the top Turkish diplomat noted. "The blockade on Gaza must come to an end. This is and will be our policy," he added.

Davutoğlu reiterated Turkey's solidarity with the Palestinian people and support for them to have a normal life on the land in which they are the indigenous inhabitants. He was speaking at a press conference following the first session of a two-day meeting of the UN Committee on the

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DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012 201004163

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Printed By: Mendel, Teresa S  
Page 1 of 3

Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People that started in Istanbul on Tuesday. Davutoğlu said it was a significant development and also meaningful that the meeting had convened in Turkey.

The committee was established in 1975 as a subsidiary body to the UN General Assembly with a mandate to promote the Palestinians' national rights.

Davutoğlu stressed that the Palestinian issue has an internationally strategic dimension, but for Turkey, it is, above all, a humanitarian issue. "We want the children of Gaza and the West Bank, just like children in other parts of the world, to look to the future with hope. We want Palestinian people to be allowed to be connected with the outside world so that they can fulfill their needs," he added.

The Gaza Strip has been under a tightened Israeli and Egyptian economic blockade since 2007 when the Hamas movement took over the territory after being elected in the 2006 elections. The blockade was enforced to put pressure on Hamas and to stop weapons being smuggled in.

In response to a question regarding the Turkish government's reaction if Israel prevents the humanitarian aid ships that will set sail for Gaza on Thursday from reaching their destination, Davutoğlu said they were not expecting a crisis over the matter. "We are hoping that tension will not arise over there. Similar civilian initiatives have been formulated at certain times relating to different issues in the past, too, and they were generally received with understanding because of their civilian character. We hope and expect Israel and the NGOs to behave with common sense here as well," Davutoğlu said. The Israeli Defense Ministry earlier said they would prevent the fleet from arriving at the port of Gaza.

Nine ships will depart from Antalya to carry humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip on Thursday. Volunteers from over 50 countries will be on board the ships in an attempt to show a civilian reaction to the blockade in Gaza.

Speaking to Today's Zaman on the sidelines of the meeting, a foreign ministry official said it was not clear what would happen to the ships. "The thing is we do not have a rational government on the part of Israel, so we cannot anticipate what they will do," the official said, also adding that they had underlined the move's civilian character and explained to Israel that it was not an "armada."

Davutoğlu assessed the Palestinian issue in the speech he delivered at the meeting's first session. He started his

address by acknowledging the Palestinians' long-standing plight. "Today, the fulfillment of the rightful aspirations of the Palestinian people to establish a homeland has become all the more essential. There is no more room to maneuver to further deny their legitimate rights," he said. In that regard, he noted that the launching of proximity talks between Palestine and Israel was a positive step. He stressed the significance of the maintenance of talks and said unilateral and provocative actions should not be allowed to disrupt the process. "Especially, Israel should be obliged to act with common sense so as not to hinder the re-launching of the direct talks," he stated, adding that a substantial part of the burden has to be shouldered by the international community.

"There should be a strong international commitment toward Palestinian statehood with clear objectives, clear terms of reference for the negotiations and time frames," Davutoğlu said.

He expressed his hopes for the prospect of peace in the Middle East in general, too. "A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity, while the optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty," he said, and added that he preferred to be an optimist. "I firmly believe that it is high time for all of us to unite our ranks and overcome the hurdles along our way to create a peaceful, secure, stable and prosperous region which we all deserve," he concluded.

26 May 2010, Wednesday

MUSTAFA EDİB YILMAZ ISTANBUL

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Mendel, Teresa S

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Parker, Andrew C  
 Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 4:43 AM  
 To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J  
 Subject: Re: 5/23 Haaretz article on Israeli counter-flotilla

The civilian counter-flotilla appears to have been a weekend statement by local sailors with boats. Our MFA contact yesterday agreed it is not currently a factor. Ditto for our DATT. If we learn more we will pass it along.

From: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)  
 To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manring, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Reisser, Wesley J; Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A  
 Sent: Wed May 26 11:25:53 2010  
 Subject: 5/23 Haaretz article on Israeli counter-flotilla

Here is an interesting article from Haaretz from 5/23. Does anyone know the status of the Israeli counter-flotilla?

Sal

*Salvatore A. Amodeo*

Deputy Political & Economic Section Chief/Senior Political Officer  
 U.S. Consulate General Istanbul  
 (90) 212-335-9389

### Local fleet sets out to counter Gaza-bound ships from Turkey

By Anshel Pfeffer, Jack Khoury and Avi Issacharoff

Dozens of vessels sailed yesterday from the Herzliya marina to the beach near Tel Yona, west of Rishon Letzion, in a fleet organizers said was a response to ships that set sail yesterday from Turkey, bound for the Gaza Strip.

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"This is a civil initiative and is not connected to any political group," one of the organizers, Mati Freiman, said.

"We would like to present a counter-flotilla to the Turks, who are trying to justify themselves and work for the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip and Hamas, while ignoring the rights of other minorities in their own country and ignoring the fact that the kidnapped soldier Gilad Shalit has been held for almost four years without rights," he said.

The group of ships from Turkey left yesterday for Cyprus; the navy and Military Intelligence estimate that approximately 10 ships will leave Cyprus this Thursday and arrive in the area over the weekend, with about 500 people on board.

Defense Minister Ehud Barak signed an order closing off the zone 20 nautical miles from the Gaza shoreline. The defense establishment said the navy would prevent the fleet from arriving at the Gaza port, but added that for operational reasons they would not say where the ships would be intercepted.

Naval sources said they were concerned that people on board would initiate a provocation that would lead to a shooting incident or violence for the sake of media attention. The Israel Navy crews have been briefed on preventing a decline into violence.

There is also concern that Gazans will try to take dozens of their boats out to sea to meet the aid ships. The navy is expected to act to keep the two groups separate.

The Gush Shalom movement last week asked Barak to cancel his directive to the navy to stop the Turkish flotilla. "The whole world is watching us," the group said. "Israel has no interest in flooding international television channels with pictures of sailors and Israeli commandos fighting with peace activists and humanitarian aid activists, many of whom are well known in their countries."

This story is by:

- [Anshel Pfeffer](#)
- [Jack Khoury](#)



- [Avi Issacharoff](#)

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